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is honoured to invite you to attend the opening of the bazaar which will be held at

The International Jerusalem Hotel

on the occasion of Christmas and the New Year. The opening ceremony will be held at 9:30 a.m. Saturday Dec. 5, 1992.

The bazaar will last for three days from 10 a.m. until 10 p.m.

Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published by the Jordan Press Foundation
جوردان تايمز يومية سياسية تعبر بالانجليزية عن المؤسسة الصحفية الأردنية، الرأي

1&2

Make a real breakthrough

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AMMAN THURSDAY-FRIDAY, DECEMBER 3-4, 1992, JUMADA AL THANI 8-9, 1413

Price: Jordan 100 fils; Saudi Arabia 1.50 riyals; UAE 1.50 dirhams

Man shot dead

OCCUPIED GAZA (R) — A Palestinian died in hospital in the occupied Gaza Strip Wednesday after being shot by Israeli troops in the day before. Arab officials said. Khalid Al Az, 22, died of three bullet wounds to the chest, they said. Tuesday Israeli forces shot a 12-year-old boy and killed 30 Palestinians in a clash that Arab sources said began when troops charged into a Gaza City for a Palestinian shot dead in a clash last

Indrag approves Maasticht Treaty

BRUSSELS (AP) — Germany's lower house of parliament overwhelmingly approved the Maasticht Treaty Wednesday, heeding Chancellor Helmut Kohl's warning that only a unified Europe could combat resurgent nationalism. The Bundestag voted 543-42 with eight abstentions, in favour of the treaty. The treaty goes to the upper house, the Bundestag, for approval of the treaty is needed for Germany's final ratification. So far, seven countries have ratified the treaty on European unity, and one rejected it. Germany has one of the strongest proposals of the treaty, and Mr. Kohl hoped for clear approval to the European Community unit later this month in Edinburgh, Scotland.

Yishus has fired into security zone

RJAYOUN, Lebanon (AP) — Unidentified guerrillas fired yishus rockets at a post manned by the Israeli affiliated South Lebanon Army (SLA) Tuesday, wounding several soldiers. Israeli sources in South Lebanon said no casualties were reported either in the rocket attack or the village of Ayshiyeh, in Israel's self-styled "security zone" or in the later barrage. Sources said SLA and Israeli targeted several villages in the Al Tuffah.

Q: No special ban travel

GHADAD (R) — Iraq said today it had imposed no special restrictions on citizens travelling abroad but would re-apply for visas for beggars or beggars. "There is no ban or restriction on travel outside Iraq," the government newspaper Al Jumhuriyah quoted the director of Iraq's passport department as saying. "Travel (abroad) open to all Iraqis." But Al Jumhuriyah said the authorities refused travel permits to those described as "beggars and those who travel for the sake of the day." The newspaper's report followed signs that Iraq feared to be cutting back on travel by some of its nationals, particularly those engaged in drug or smuggling.

ush wants to sit Jerusalem

IL AVIV (AP) — George Bush, who did not visit Israel during his presidency, apparently said like to after he leaves the White House. In a letter to Jerusalem's Israeli mayor, Teddy Kollek, Mr. Bush expressed satisfaction with improved U.S.-Israeli relations and talked of travel. "I will leave the White House with more than a little satisfaction about what Israel and the United States were able to accomplish," Mr. Bush wrote. "There are few things I would enjoy more than a chance to discuss these matters with you on a visit to Jerusalem." The letter, dated Nov. 10, was received in the mayor's office on Wednesday.

Jordan to press for Jerusalem in multilaterals

AMMAN (J.T.) — Jordanian members of a steering committee for multilateral Middle East peace talks said Wednesday they will press for the issues of Jerusalem and human rights to be included in the agenda. The committee of government officials meets in London Thursday and Friday to assess progress in five working groups set up in January to discuss regional cooperation and fix dates and venues for new rounds of talks. "We will again reiterate our call for new working groups, one on Jerusalem and one on human rights in the Israeli-occupied territories," Fayed Tarawneh, head of Jordan's team to the talks, said before leaving for London. "Last time there was no regional consensus...but we will keep on pressing," Dr. Tarawneh was quoted as saying by Reuters. Jordan and the Palestinians failed to win support for the creation of the two proposed working groups at the first round of steering committee talks in Lisbon in May because of inter-Arab differences and Israel's re-

jection of the idea. The multilateral talks, launched in January and designed to complement bilateral talks between Israel and the Arabs covers water resources, arms control, Palestinian refugees, economic development and the environment. Syria and Lebanon are boycotting the multilaterals, attended by 40 countries in and outside the Middle East, in protest against lack of progress in bilateral talks. Israel, Jordan, Egypt, Japan, Canada, the European Community, the Gulf Cooperation Council, North African countries and Palestinians are expected to attend. The regional talks parallel Arab-Israeli peace talks, which are due to resume in Washington Dec. 7. Assistant Secretary of State Edward Djerejian will head the U.S. delegation in London and Viktor Posivaluk, director of the Near East Department of the Russian Foreign Ministry, will head his government's group.

Israeli cabinet present law to lift ban on PLO contacts

TEL AVIV (AP) — The government asked parliament Wednesday to repeal a ban on contacts with the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), saying the statute violates democratic and legal principles. But Justice Minister David Libai said the bill must not be misread as a signal the government is softening its opposition to the PLO as a partner in the peace talks. Mr. Libai said earlier Wednesday that Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin held up the measure for several months to await the outcome of the U.S. presidential election. President-elect Bill Clinton is viewed here as more sympathetic to Israeli concerns than President George Bush. Mr. Rabin reportedly feared that repealing the law earlier would have encouraged the Bush administration to renew its dialogue with the PLO — suspended after a 1990 attack on Israel. He also worried it could have brought pressure on Israel to negotiate with the PLO. Parliament debated the repeal of the contact ban in a first reading Wednesday. All laws require three readings. It was unclear if a vote would be taken Wednesday because a member of Mr. Rabin's coalition, the religious Shas party, withdrew support at the last minute. Shas was angered that parliament approved, mainly with coalition votes, the first reading

of a bill that would allow prostitution in authorised locations. Prostitution now is illegal. Shas' six legislators said they would retaliate for the passage of the prostitution bill by abstaining or voting against the repeal of the PLO ban. Mr. Rabin's coalition has 62 members in the 120-seat parliament. The government could push through the bill with the help of five Arab legislators who support the coalition from outside, but may be reluctant to do so and instead delay the vote. In presenting the PLO bill to parliament, Mr. Libai said the meeting ban "violates principles of democracy and criminal law," and that its authors were not concerned with state security but with suppressing political contacts with the Palestinians. The 1986 amendment to the law bars meetings with members of "terror" organisations, including the PLO which Israel says fits the category. Violators face up to three years in prison, and several Israelis have served time, including peace activist Abie Nathan. Looking at Mr. Nathan, who was listening from the visitor's gallery, Mr. Libai said: "A man whose entire existence is brotherliness and peace... that he is the one who must be put in prison to prevent terror, this is simply ridiculous." Mr. Nathan served 10 months in prison for meeting with PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat.

West resists Muslim demand on Bosnia

JEDDAH (Agencies) — Muslim nations appeared determined Wednesday to brush aside Western objections and formally demand U.N. military intervention to stop the slaughter of Bosnian Muslims. Angry delegates at a special meeting of the Organisation of the Islamic Conference (OIC) warned privately that if the West failed to act against Serb forces attacking Bosnian Muslims, the Islamic World would intervene. "If they don't help, then we must turn this into a full-scale civil war and not just a turkey shoot," a senior delegate from a leading moderate state said on the final day of the two-day conference. But key U.N. mediation in the Yugoslavia crisis told the gathering Wednesday that military action against the Serbs in Bosnia-Herzegovina and lifting international sanctions to allow Muslims to buy weapons were out of the question. The declarations of Cyrus Vance and David Owen, co-chairmen of the U.N. conference on former Yugoslavia, appeared to undermine the OIC's latest did to ease the plight of Muslims in the former Yugoslav republic. Conference sources quoted Mr. Vance, a former U.S. secretary of state, as saying he "totally refused" the proposed military operations to rein in the Serbs, whose eight-month old "ethnic cleansing" campaign against the Muslims and Croats has killed 17,000, left 110,000 missing and displaced one million people. Mr. Owen, a former British foreign secretary, supported Mr. Vance's stance, said the sources, insisting on anonymity. Mr. Vance and Mr. Owen also argued against lifting a U.N. arms embargo, a suggestion contained in King Fahd's speech Tuesday when he inaugurated the two-day meeting. Syrian Foreign Minister Farouk Al Sharrar, speaking after the session, told the Associated Press that OIC ministers disagreed. "The Islamic conference had another viewpoint which is that while we support the embargo on Yugoslavia, it is illogical to have the people of Bosnia-Herzegovina face murder and deportation without being able to defend themselves," he said. "Resolutions have to be applicable to all or the embargo on Bosnia-Herzegovina be lifted," Mr. Sharrar said. Iraqi Bosnian Foreign Minister Hariz Silajdzic snapped: "I doubt Vance's credibility and honesty," and walked out of the conference hall, the other sources said. He

(Continued on page 5)

Palestinians await U.S. response to demands before next round of talks

By Sana Atiyeh
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Palestinian participation in the eighth round of Arab-Israeli peace talks due to resume on Dec. 7 depends on American response to a number of demands the Palestinian delegation made to State Department officials last month at the end of the seventh round. Palestinian sources said Wednesday. The Palestinian demands, according to the sources, included: — The U.S. should commit itself to securing an Israeli pledge to respect the human rights of the Palestinians in the occupied territories; — The U.S. should reaffirm the right of the Palestinian people to exercise authority with full jurisdiction over all the occupied territories, including East Jerusalem and secure Israeli commitment to respect this Palestinian right during the interim phase; — The U.S. should ensure that Israel produce new ideas other than those presented during the last round of negotiations; and — The U.S. should pledge to transform its promises into action.

Speaking on condition of anonymity, a Palestinian delegate to the peace talks also welcomed a letter reportedly sent by U.S. Acting Secretary of State Lawrence Eagleburger to Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin blaming the Jewish state for the slow pace in achieving progress in the peace talks, which were launched in Madrid in October 1991. "I believe that Eagleburger's letter to Israel is some kind of a response to our demands," said the delegate, who preferred anonymity. The source also said that Mr.

Eagleburger had sent a letter to the Palestinian delegation requesting their participation in the next round. Reports from Jeddah said Wednesday that the Palestinians have urged their Arab partners to boycott the eighth round of peace talks. The call was made during a meeting of the foreign ministers of the concerned parties held on the periphery of the Organisation of Islamic Conference gathering.

Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Executive Committee member Yasser Abed Rabbo told Reuters that the Palestinian leadership advocated "postponing the next round because there is no benefit because of Israel's position." He was also quoted as saying that the Palestinians were waiting for "written answers" from the U.S. about their concerns. In intense meetings in Tunis last month, the Palestinian leadership decided to delay their decision for participation until the Arab foreign ministers coordination meeting due to be held in Beirut Friday.

Palestinian delegation sources told the Jordan Times that the negotiators and advisors had recommended at the PLO meetings — which reviewed the entire peace process — not to agree on participation until their demands, or at least some of them, were met. "George Bush had promised during his speech at the Madrid conference that the U.S. will play the role of the driving force in the talks. But we have not seen this implemented yet as it should," the delegate said, referring to the demand that the U.S. "fulfill its promises." The Palestinians expect American pressure on Israel for the Jewish state to apply the Fourth Geneva Convention and end all human rights viola-

tions against Palestinians in the occupied territories and to ensure protection of the people; to end settlement activity, which the U.S. is monitoring; to ensure that the Rabin government fulfil its commitment to transferring to the Palestinians interim self-government all authorities except security and foreign affairs; for Jerusalem to be part of the interim negotiations; to resume its dialogue with the PLO; to get Israel to give the Palestinian delegation access to information related to issues under negotiations; to provide economic support by raising its contributions to the United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA) and provide direct contributions; and to allow a wider range of experts to take part in the talks.

The last request, according to a Palestinian source, was approved by the Israelis at the end of the last round of talks. Israelis agreed to allow Palestinian experts from the diaspora to take part, unless they are residents of Jerusalem or members of the PLO. Meanwhile, the outgoing Bush administration had urged all parties involved in the peace talks "to take advantage of the next two months before Bill Clinton's administration takes over and gives momentum to the talks," the source said, adding that he expected the Clinton administration, which takes over on Jan. 20, to dedicate its first six months to internal matters. State Department officials have assured the Palestinians that Mr. Clinton's policy on the peace process would remain similar to the Bush administration's, the source said.

The Palestinian demands were tabled at informal meetings at the State Department during the November round of talks. The meetings reviewed Israeli proposals for the interim period in which Israel is to transfer its authorities to the Palestinians in the West Bank and Gaza Strip for a three-year transitional

(Continued on page 4)

Palestinians reject Israel's interim proposal, page 5

First party licensed

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The Jordan National Alliance (JNA) Wednesday became the first political party to secure formal recognition from the government. Mijhem Khreisha, the secretary-general of the party which was among the first to apply when the Ministry of Interior opened its door for registration of political parties in September, said he had received an official notification from Interior Minister Jawdat Shoul informing him that a license was granted to JNA to practice political activities in the Kingdom in line with the provisions of the Political Parties Law of 1992. The law was approved by Parliament in mid-1992 and went to effect as of Sept. 1. In a statement to the Jordan Times, Mr. Khreisha said the JNA, which groups tribal activists from the central and southern regions of Jordan, would remain totally committed to its principles and objectives and total allegiance to the Hashemite Throne and the homeland. The party will dedicate itself to efforts for promoting development under the leadership of His Majesty King Hussein. Mr. Khreisha said. According to Ministry of Interior officials, seven parties have so far applied for registration in accordance with the Political Parties Law. The last to submit an application was the Jordan People's Democratic Party led by Tayseer Al Zibri, secretary-general of the group, in October. There is no deadline for application and observers say that many other groupings are conducting intense consultations among themselves.

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Bardera — simmering below surface

By P. V. Vivekanand
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

EMACIATED MEN, women and children with expectant, hungry eyes mill around a small clearing in a swampy mudland where five oil drums are cooking a mixture of cooked rice, beans and oil.

Four or five "guards" are holding the people back with a fence made of thorny plants, barking at them to be patient and ruthlessly hitting those who dare to push forward. No-one seems to mind the beating; every mind and eye is set on the steaming cooking pots and nothing is going to keep them away when that mixture is handed out.

After a wait which seems endless, volunteers take up positions around the drums with scoops. Word is given, parts of the fences are removed and food distribution starts.

What happens next is beyond description. A thrashing, fighting, shoving jostling human wave rushes in: old men, women and little children get pushed back and trampled and many go through a new round of beating with thorny sticks by the guards.

But nothing in the world can hold them back anymore. The mixture that is being scooped out represents everything in life for them, at least for the moment.

Many plead for more scoops into their "pots" — mostly cut-away oil cans and aluminum plates.

For those who get their share, the rush then is for space to sit down and start gulping down the food.

The lucky ones get away with sneaky second helpings, including two-and three-year-old urged by their families to appeal to the volunteers. Some of them cannot even carry their "pots" and make their labourious way, breathing hard with their burden.

Slowly the level of food in the drums goes down, and some semblance of calm returns. Most of the hungry have received a minimum share of food, enough to keep them alive for one more day.

It was feeding time in an afternoon last week in Bardera, a southwestern Somali town, to where relief agencies are slowly and cautiously making their way back after several uncertain weeks.

Starvation and malnutrition-related diseases still claim an average of 180 lives every day in Bardera, and the hungry are continuing to flow to camps for the displaced and international feeding centres.

Bardera, in the Gedo region close to the border with Kenya, was captured by forces loyal to ousted Somali dictator Mohammad Siad Barre in September after fierce battles with the fighters of Mohamud Farah Aidede, one of the two main contenders for power in the country.

The fall of the town forced a halt to relief work and was a new disaster for its residents, who, after months of starvation and misery, were slowly getting down to having at least their minimum food needs met at feeding centres run by international agencies.

"The death rate in the camps had fallen to less than 80 per

day and was continuing to decline when the battles started in earnest," said Rudd Holstrom, a relief agency worker in the town of about 40,000, including those in camps for the displaced.

As the free-for-all violence — "actually nobody knew who was fighting whom and for what" — ebbed and Aidede forces were somehow driven out, the death rates had risen to more than 250 per day, said Mr. Holstrom.

Relief workers remained caught in the crossfire for a few days before being ordered out by Aidede, who vowed to retake the town. As a result only the flow of food trickled and Bardera began living through another nightmare.

For the moment, Aidede, with his forces stretched thin, appears to have given up immediate plans to recapture Bardera. And relief agencies, with an uncanny sense of the direction of Somali politics, are gradually returning back. As a result, less number of bodies are collected every day for burial from the refugee camps.

"We are trying our best to feed the people here, but it is a huge task," said a Swedish nurse who works with Swedrelief, a voluntary agency which has thrown its lot with the United Nations Children Fund (UNICEF).

"More and more people are reaching the camps for the displaced every day," she said. "Some of them had been walking for two weeks, covering as much as 100 kilometres from

their remote villages, surviving on whatever they could find on their way," she added, gesturing to the crowd around the cooking pots.

"This is their first real food in months. Can you blame them for being impatient?"

The main problem, she explained, many of the new arrivals are unable to digest the mixture of rice and beans. "Having eaten almost nothing for weeks, they have lost their digestive powers and they should start on milk to build up strength."

"We simply do not have enough milk powder," she added.

Many of those who manage to make it to the camps have lost much more than their digestion. Entire families perish on the treacherous trek. Exhaustion and starvation kill many while wayside bandits claim the rest.

In Bardera itself, there is little sense of security despite assurances given by the area's new controllers.

Aid agencies have to pay "protection" money to local gunmen who are hired by the day to drive relief workers around and to guard the airstrip when planes land with supplies. The town has only six serviceable vehicles, all of them rented by the agencies.

"We dare not take out our pick-up truck," said Mr. Holstrom pointing to a brand-new vehicle resting behind thick gates inside the small U.N. compound just outside Bardera's central market. "The gun-



Feeding time for the hungry at a displaced camp in Bardera in southwestern Somalia now controlled by forces loyal to ousted dictator Mohammad Siad Barre. (Photo by P.V. Vivekanand)

men in town have had their eyes on it ever since it was airlifted here last week."

In fact, the pick-up represents the only hope for relief officials to leave town in a hurry if new hostilities erupt and the airstrip gets "closed."

But the forces that rule the area are oblivious to the concern and demand increased international assistance.

"We want the U.N. to bring in more food for our suffering people," says "Colonel Barre Aden Shabel," who says he led the assault that pushed out Aidede forces from the town in September.

Barre belongs to the Marehan clan as Siad Barre, the ousted president, and is deputy

to "General Morgan" — Siad Barre's son-law who is leading the effort to assume leadership of the clan in post-Siad Barre Somalia.

Sitting cross-legged in a thatched hut surrounded by his lieutenants on the banks of the gushing Lower Jubba River, Barre accuses Aidede of everything under the sun — from using and distributing drugs to cheating the Somali nation through false promises and serving no-one but his own Habar-Gedir clansmen.

"He will never come back here to the Gedo region, I promise you that," says the bearded colonel in a variation of Swahili, the dominant language of Somalia. An interpreter translates his words as the

crowd around him nods in unison.

"You can go back and tell the world that Gedo is ours — we the Marehan — and we will keep it, no matter what," he adds, hitting the ground with his thick cane and casting proud glances at his henchmen, many of them armed to the teeth with almost every kind of weapon, including rocket-propelled grenades and assault guns and knives.

How does he feel about the massive suffering and misery of his people? Isn't it the result of the violent bid for supremacy among the clans?

"Yes, it might be," he concedes. "But that is the way we Somali people are."

Egypt says 2,000 Iraqi guards in Sudan

CAIRO (AP) — Egyptian enforcement officer: more than 2,000 Iraqi Republican Guards are in Sudan, Egyptian officials say.

Abdul Halim Musa, interior minister, also in an interview published by the Egyptian newspaper Al-Masri, said that Egypt may expel the diplomat in Egypt for meet with extremists.

Also, Mr. Musa said in the weekly Al-Masri, that the United States, sheltering an Egyptian cleric, Sheikh Omar al-Bayh, despite the sheik's links with extremists, is a threat to Egypt.

Mr. Musa's interview government-owned newspaper marked a further Egyptian-Iranian strained for 13 years. Since of diplomatic ties by Iran in 1979 to protect peace treaty with Iraq, Iran is represented in Egypt's interests section at embassy.

President Hosni Mubarak charged Iran with imposing its hegemony states in the Gulf as Egypt would defend it, that speech, Iran is abuse on Mr. Mubarak him a mercenary.

"It is definite and more than 2,000 Iranian Revolutionary Guards in Sudan to train extra Musa said.

He spoke of training Sudan "with Iranian terrorists elements" in Egypt from Sudan and "not necessarily with ledge of their govern in Khartoum, Sudan Iran's visiting chief, Mohammad Yazdi, reported has military forces to Mr. Musa said: "Iran's involvement in south of Egypt and interrogation of arrested for terrorism."

Publication of the coincided with the Wednesday of a post Captain, Ali Mohammad, in the head last gun battle between a police raiders in Alexandria.

His death brought number of people killed in an upsurge of religious violence targeting officials, Christians, tourists, the violence replacing Egypt's sentiment with an Iran-Syria.

Without giving details, Musa said Egyptian foiled efforts by a Mohammedi, Iran's in Cairo, to "meet with elements."

Asked whether Mr. Musa was trying to interest section into an centre, Mr. Musa said possible expulsion. have time to do it.

Telephone calls to mission were unanswered phone at Mr. Mohammedi either perpetually engaged or order.

Mr. Musa charged Abdul Rahman, a blind cleric living in New Cairo, July 1990, has been money and sending it to finance activities of his followers. He cited transfers totaling \$140,000 they were discovered. Sheikh Abdul Rahman sending funds with Mr. He said Egypt has requested Sheikh Abdul Rahman's extradition.

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17:30 Au plaisir de Dieu
19:00 News in French
19:15 Les Images de L'histoire
19:30 News in Hebrew
20:00 News in Arabic
20:30 Uncle Buck
21:10 Civil Wars
22:00 News in English
22:30
Movie of the week: "Incident at Crateridge"

PRAYER TIMES
04:52 Fajr
06:14 (Sunrise) Dhuhr
11:25 Dhuhr
16:12 'Asr
16:36 Maghrib
17:57 'Isha

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JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

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Firas pharmacy 661912
Ferdous pharmacy 778336
Al Asma pharmacy 637055
Najwa pharmacy 623672
Al Salam pharmacy 636730
Yacoub pharmacy 644945
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Palestine, Shamsi 669131
Shamsi Hospital 845845
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09:30 New Delhi (RJ)
10:15 Beirut (RJ)
10:20 Colombo (RJ)
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20:10 Rome (RJ)
20:30 Athens, Larnaca (RJ)
06:00 Luxor (RJ)

Other Flights (Terminal 2)

12:00 Muscat, Abu Dhabi (GF)
13:00 Riyadh (SU)
16:30 Istanbul (TK)
17:00 Dubai (EA)
20:30 Cairo (MS)
21:00 Larnaca (CY)

DEPARTURES

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)

06:15 Beirut (RJ)
11:00 Rome (RJ)
11:00 Abu Dhabi (RJ)
11:15 Montreal, Toronto (RJ)
12:00 Paris (RJ)
12:00 Athens (RJ)
12:30 London (RJ)
12:30 Larnaca (RJ)
12:30 Luxor (RJ)
12:30 Jeddah (RJ)
12:30 Bahrain Doha (RJ)
12:30 Damascus (RJ)
12:30 Dubai, Muscat (RJ)
12:30 Kuala Lumpur, Jakarta (RJ)
12:30 Bahrain, Doha (RJ)

Other Flights (Terminal 2)

06:40 Paris (AF)
06:45 Beirut (ME)
12:15 Larnaca, Vienna (OS)

13:45 Abu Dhabi, Muscat (GF)
14:30 Riyadh (SU)
17:30 Istanbul (TK)
18:00 Damascus (SU)
20:20 Cairo (MS)

MARKET PRICES

Upper/lower price in the market
Apples 1.50
Bananas 1.00
Beans (Madagascar) 1.50
Beans 1.50
Cabbage 1.50
Carrot 1.50
Cauliflower 1.50
Cucumbers (large) 1.50
Cucumbers (small) 1.50
Eggplant 1.50
Garlic 1.50
Grapefruit 1.50
Lemon 1.50
Marrow (large) 1.50
Marrow (small) 1.50
Onion (dry) 1.50
Onion (green) 1.50
Orange 1.50
Peanut (oil) 1.50
Pepper (hot) 1.50
Pepper (sweet) 1.50
Potato 1.50
Tomato 1.50
Spinach 1.50
Mint 1.50
Green Olive 1.50

Chambers of Commerce, Industry, Agriculture under scrutiny

AMMAN (Petra) — The role of the Chambers of Commerce, Industry and Agriculture in the Arab world is under scrutiny at a two-day symposium which opened Wednesday.

Abdul Halim al-Husseini, minister of commerce, industry and agriculture, said the chambers are major factors of economic activity in the Arab world as they contribute the lion's share of the Arab domestic product, the minister said. Jordan has opened the way for its chambers to embark on programmes leading to privatisation, encouraging investments, developing exports and other measures, he added.

Jordanian Chambers of Commerce and Industry play a major role in the preparation of the 1993-1997 socio-economic development plan, the minister pointed out.

Three working papers were reviewed in the first session dealing with the role of chambers in helping to draw up economic policies, the effects of monetary policies on socio-economic activities and the role of these chambers in agricultural and industrial investments in the Arab World.



Her Majesty Queen Noor congratulates one of the graduates Wednesday (Petra photo)

Queen graduates nurses

AMMAN (J.T.) — A group of 13 nursing tutors and nine specialist nurses graduated Wednesday and received their diplomas from Her Majesty Queen Noor Al Hussein. The tutors graduated from the Jordanian Institute of Specialised Nursing Studies (ISNS) run by the Ministry of Health, and the specialised nurses were turned out from the primary health care nursing development project centre also sponsored by the health ministry in cooperation with the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID).

USAID spent \$6.5 million towards the establishment of these programmes in a bid to promote health services in the Kingdom. U.S. Ambassador Roger Harrison, who addressed the graduation ceremony, said that his country had contributed to the establishment of the first nursing school in Jordan 35 years ago and was willing to maintain close cooperation with the health authorities in Jordan to promote health services.

Health Minister Aref Bataineh thanked the Queen for sponsoring the graduation, and the USAID for its assistance. USAID officials said that the primary health care nursing development project which started in 1986 and ends in 1994, is a joint

JPA discusses pan-Arab cause

AMMAN (Petra) — A meeting of the federation of Arab pharmacists which opened in Amman Wednesday heard calls for urgent activities designed to bolster cooperation among pharmacists unions and promote pharmacists roles in pan-Arab causes.

Federation Chairman Dr. Abdul Ghani Mabared noted that the federation, which was established in 1945, was instrumental in promoting pan-Arab action in the past, and it is hoped that it would resume its role in the face of the current circumstances facing the Arab nation. The Arabs are currently facing hostile action on the part of the common enemies who aim at usurping our lands and our resources and future, he said.

His call was echoed by Mr.

Abdul Rauf Rawabdeh who deputised for His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan. No single Arab country can by itself achieve its national aspirations without close cooperation with sister Arab states, Mr. Rawabdeh noted. He voiced Jordan's call on the Arab states to rally to the support of the Palestinian and Lebanese people now facing Israeli occupation and the Iraqi and Libyan people facing sanctions. He also urged pharmacists to extend a helping hand to the Somali people facing civil strife and starvation.

Addressing the opening session also was Mr. Husamuddin Mismar, Jordan Pharmacists Association (JPA) President who noted that unlike other professions in Jordan, unemployment does not exist among the ranks of the Jordanian pharmacists.

King presents state awards for the arts

Minister praises cultural renaissance in Jordan

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein Wednesday honoured 13 Jordanian writers, poets, scientists and artists by presenting them with the state awards granted in recognition of their distinguished work in the fields of literature, science and the arts.

At the outset of the ceremony, which was held at the Jordanian Political Life Museum, Minister of Culture Mahmoud Al Samra delivered an address in which he stressed that his ministry was working on encouraging creative works and promoting the creation of a democratic pan-Arabic culture.

He said the current year has witnessed a comprehensive cultural renaissance in Jordan in various cultural fields. Therefore, he said, the ministry was keen to activate its role in promoting creativity and safeguarding public freedoms in the democratic era.

Dr. Samra said Amman was aspiring to play a pan-Arab cultural role, which would be boosted by the atmosphere of freedom and democracy prevailing in Jordan.

Amman is going beyond its local horizon to the wider Arab sphere, by holding the Jordanian cultural days in Oman and the Jordanian cultural week in Abu Dhabi, and it is preparing to host the Arab writers conference and



His Majesty King Hussein and Minister of Culture Mahmoud Al Samra Wednesday view art works at a new exhibition (Petra photo)

the Arab poetry festival in the second half of the coming month," he said.

He stressed that King Hussein's desire to honour excellent writers, poets, scientists and artists is a clear indication that the King considers culture as an essential element of civilisation and progress.

Renowned Arab poet Moham-

mad Mahdi Al Jawahri, who was present at the ceremony, recited a poem lauding King Hussein's pan-Arab stands and highlighting his efforts to unify Arab ranks.

King Hussein then distributed the state awards for 1991 in the fields of social sciences and Arab and Islamic history to Dr. Awad Khleifat, Dr. Mohammad Adnan Al Bakhit (who received by his brother Zeid Al Bakhit since he is abroad) and Dr. Yousef Ghawanmeh. The King also presented the 1991 state award for plastic arts to Rafiq Al Lahham.

The 1992 state award for literary studies was presented by the King to Dr. Abdul Rahman Yaghi and Dr. Yousef Bakkar, in the field of social sciences to Dr. Ali Mahafza and Dr. Fahmi Al Jadaani, and in plastic arts to Aziz Ammoura and Dr. Mahmoud Sadeq.

King Hussein presented the state award in the field of literature to poet Habib Al Zayoudi, in the field of science to Engineer Ayyoub Issa Abu Dayyeh and Dr. Mahmoud Abu Zeid, in the field of social sciences to Farouq Al Sreihen and in arts to Sakhr Hatrar who received it on behalf of Al Fuheis Folk troupe.

The ceremony was attended by Her Majesty Queen Noor, Prime Minister Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker, Upper House of Parliament Speaker Ahmad Al Lawzi, Lower House of Parliament Speaker Abdul Latif Arabiyat, Royal Court Chief Khaled Al Karaki, Chief Chamberlain Prince Raad Ben Zeid and Private Chamberlain Prince Ali Ben Nayef.

His Majesty later opened at the museum an exhibition of Jordanian contemporary art, organised by the Jordanian Artists League.

HOME NEWS IN BRIEF

Speakers play host to youth groups

AMMAN (Petra) — Speakers of the Upper and Lower Houses of Parliament, Minister of Education Ahmad Al Lawzi and Abdul Latif Arabiyat Wednesday welcomed a delegation representing youth federations in Sweden, Norway, Denmark, Finland, Iceland, and the Netherlands. The two speakers outlined to the visitors the economic and political levels.

USA and Canada to research olive oil processing

AMMAN (Petra) — The Royal Scientific Society (RSS) Wednesday concluded an agreement with the international development research centre of Canada to conduct a study on means of treating olive oil from Sudan, disposing of materials left behind by the olive oil presses in the Sudan. The study which will take four years to complete, will be jointly conducted by the two institutions which will also share the results of the project.

Land and Survey Dept. registers increase in fees

AMMAN (Petra) — The Department of Lands and Survey announced that its collections in fees for the registration of real estate in Jordan last month amounted to JD 11,240, which is a five per cent increase over the amounts registered in October. Department Director Ali Gharalbeh said that for the first time last month's revenues registered an increase of 28 per cent over those of November 1991.

Weather report

AMMAN (J.T.) — Rain which fell over most regions in Jordan Wednesday and Thursday will taper off Thursday when it will be replaced by a heavy shower in the northern and central regions, according to the Department of Meteorology. A department spokesman told the Jordan Times that the low depression an upsurge of which was centred over Cyprus Tuesday moved Wednesday to the east, causing heavy rains to drench most parts of the Levant. The weather conditions will improve gradually on Thursday with no rain at all expected Friday, but with the temperature not rising above 11 degrees celsius, the spokesman said.

WHAT'S GOING ON

EXHIBITIONS

Exhibition of Palestinian embroidery by the UNRWA women's programme centres at the British Council.

Exhibition by renowned Iraqi artist Shaker Hassan Al Saeed at the Jordan Gallery of Fine Arts.

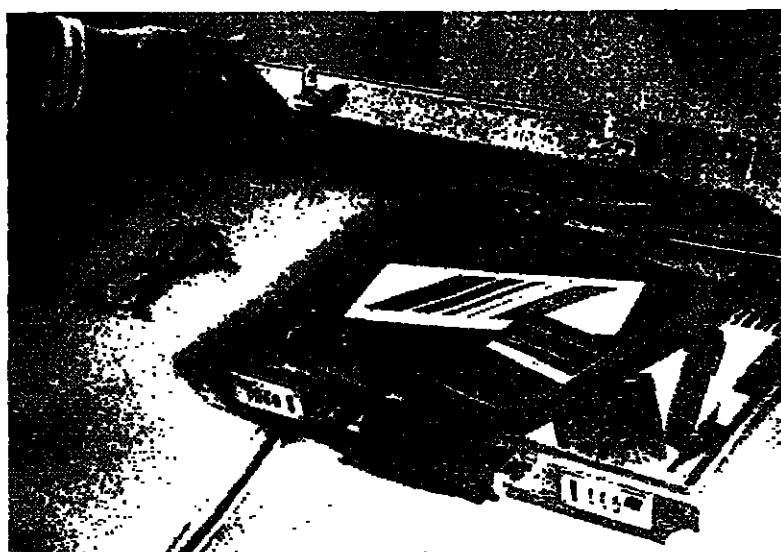
LECTURE

Lecture in Arabic, entitled "Ministry of Baghdad's School in the Islamic era" by Nabeha Na'emi at the Abdul Hameed Shoman Foundation.

BAZAAR

The American Women of Amman (AWA) Christmas charity bazaar at the Marriott Hotel, Friday 4th December, open from 11 a.m. till 4 p.m.

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Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published in English by the Jordan Press Foundation. Established 1975

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Bull's eye, at last

THE GOVERNMENT'S decision to proclaim a string of gun control measures is a necessary step in the right direction. The country has suffered dearly from the existing lax gun control policy and it was obviously high time to put an end to lawlessness in this context.

It is common knowledge that there is an organic link between the availability of guns and the rate of homicide and other violent crimes. Man is prone to use his firearm if it is available any time there is a personal conflict with another man. Many countries have debated this issue for a long time and came out conclusively in favour of restricting the possession of personal arms.

Accordingly, the government's decision to ban the possession and use of a certain category of guns does not seem to go far enough. Small arms such as revolvers were exempted from the ban and appear to be licensable with relative ease. This stance runs contrary to international policy against the possession and use of firearms by ordinary citizens since revolvers can be just as lethal as big guns. As a matter of fact, small arms are the murder weapons of most massacres that occur in the Kingdom. Big guns are a threat to national security. Their possession must be forbidden at all times. On the other hand, small arms are a threat to people's personal security and they also deserve to be outlawed except when there is indeed a pressing need to carry or possess them. To simply give the right to citizens to brandish their small weapons after acquiring an easy-to-get permit does not seem to be consistent with the basic policy against the possession of arms by private individuals.

True, a total ban on small arms would run counter to some century-old traditions and customs when tribes had to carry and possess weapons to protect themselves from other tribes. But that was an era of lawlessness and we are now approaching the end of the 20th century with the rule of law and democracy becoming the new tradition and customs of the people of Jordan. This dimension of the problem cannot be overlooked for much longer. The policy that permits the possession of arms in rural and desert regions has contributed to outbreak of hostilities and tribal frictions on numerous occasions. The heavy toll on the lives of innocent people provides the best argument for banning all kind of weapons, in all areas of the Kingdom.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

JORDANIAN DAILIES Wednesday tackled the King's Speech from the Throne at the opening of the 11th parliamentary session pointing out the main topics the speech referred to and underlined the questions that are still outstanding on the Parliament's agenda. The King was keen to point to the prominent questions related to the work of Parliament, underlining the need for enhancing the march of democracy, said Al Ra'i daily. Indeed, the King's Speech from the Throne was not a mere programme of action for the government, but rather a message directed to the legislative as well as the executive branches of government, urging them to enhance their cooperation so that the process of construction and development can continue unhindered, said the paper. What the King stressed was the need for continued cohesion among the members of the Jordanian family on the one hand and the continued process of construction in an atmosphere of democracy on the other, the paper continued. Such cohesion and such unity, the paper said, has helped the country to overcome the last challenges, frustrating Jordan's enemies and winning the respect of the world community. The paper said that despite the hatred and the conspiracies waged by Jordan's enemies against the country, and despite the sanctions and the siege, the Jordanians have continued to build and to pursue the course of development in total confidence and under the King's wise direction and leadership.

THE MILLIONS of non-German people seeking asylum in Germany or trying to secure for themselves better living conditions enjoy the generosity of the German government which offers them all kinds of help, said a columnist in Al Ra'i daily Wednesday. Tareq Masarweh said that with the exception of a handful of extreme right factions, who believe that Germany should not keep helping the non-Germans, the majority of people are supporting the government in caring for the millions of the refugees from Europe, Asia and other parts of the world. The Jews in Germany are normal citizens and no one is doing anything to harm their interests, but Israel is whipping up an ugly campaign against the Bonn government, blaming it for not taking drastic action against the extreme right groups which, Israel claims, are threatening the Jews, said the writer. While these extremist groups in Germany are trying to curtail the flood of foreigners invading their country, Israel is undertaking Nazi measures against the Palestinians, evicting them from their own homeland and committing Nazi-like crimes against the Arab population of Palestine, said the writer. The whole population of Palestinians is being treated inhumanely by the Israeli authorities, are clamped under curfews, are imprisoned for no crime, are evicted from their own homes which are demolished and are killed by troops in the streets, he continued. The writer said that it is the Israelis who are acting in a manner worse than the Nazis and are trying to tarnish the reputation of the German people.

Brotherhood matures, assumes new posture in new era

By Nermeen Murad

NO POLITICAL force in the country has received as much criticism or has been under as close a scrutiny as the Muslim Brotherhood Movement. From the day in 1989 when 23 of its representatives swept parliamentary elections, many Jordanians have watched warily as the movement participated in one government, actively worked for the downfall of another and secretly courted the third. Predictable or unpredictable, the Movement's position and action on any issue of concern to Jordan and the region have always been a factor in the formulation of the Kingdom's politics.

Now, say the leaders of the Movement, they are going to bring about a fundamental change to their policies, at least in the short-term. Priorities are being shifted, new faces are going to emerge and a totally new strategy is being formulated for the Movement to ensure that it remains in harmony with the regime rather than posing a challenge that could seriously undermine its own political future.

The first step the Brotherhood says it will take in this direction is an open commitment to the regime's stability, the country's security and respect for the Jordanian society "even though it appears corrupt on the surface."

The Movement's leaders say they are aware of the state of distrust that surrounds them and the need to dissipate it. A year away from the next round of general elections, the Movement's leaders are saying they have "grown up" since they first entered the 80-seat Lower House of Parliament; for this they credit His Majesty King Hussein's "flexibility and unequalled (among Arab leaders) understanding of Islam." One of them described the King's role over the past three years as "a balancing factor when most forces in the country were sceptical," of the Movement's intentions.

They also say that their day-to-day hands-on knowledge of the reality of Jordan's affairs, whether national or international, contributed to their "maturity." This experience alongside the system, they say, has chiselled away at their own fears of the other political and

social forces in the country and minimised their sensitivity to "all that is not Islamist on the surface."

"There is a marked change in our attitude towards what appears not to be Islamist," one of their leaders told the Jordan Times. "We now believe that we cannot judge by appearances and that the Jordanian society is basically Muslim at heart if not in appearance."

Throughout several interviews conducted with members of the Movement or those who are close to them, a new theme appeared to be pointing towards a shift in their short-term tactics, if not their long-term strategy.

For the time being, the Movement appears to be ready to tune in with the society at large and avoid confrontation over issues which touch on the personal freedoms of the more liberal Jordanians.

The Brothers concede that their initial participation in the government of Prime Minister Mudar Badran may have caused Jordanians to fear their strength and to be sceptical of their priorities.

"We were in a hurry," said a Muslim Brotherhood deputy, who asked not to be named. "Now our vision of our immediate role has changed."

The Movement's prominent members shy away from being specific about their past "mistakes" but they do say that their priorities have changed and that this change will become evident in the kind of representatives they will nominate for Parliament in 1993.

"We used to choose representatives according to their commitment to Islam and Muslim doctrine. Now we will choose the representative most able to deliver Islam to the people at this time," a prominent personality of the Movement said.

"You will see at least a 50 per cent change," one of their respected leaders told the Jordan Times recently. "Experience has brought change among the Brothers."

A senior official agrees with the Movement's own interpretation of the development of its experience and relationship with the regime and

with society at large. "They are much more pragmatic," he observes.

Other analysts, who have kept close tabs on the Movement and its relationship with the government attribute this pragmatism to the unique opportunity the Movement received in Jordan compared to other Arab countries where the Ikhwan were either militarily or politically suppressed.

"They are aware of the turbulent sea around them and they have become cautious because they know that Jordan is the only place that has allowed for co-existence," a seasoned analyst told the Jordan Times, adding that Jordan had provided the Movement with the only tranquil spot in the region where they can operate in the open.

The Movement is not unaware of this element and admits that the leadership of Islamist movements in 60 different countries around the world had told them that the Jordanian "regime is unequalled anywhere else in the world," and that it should not be undermined.

The analyst, who insisted on anonymity, points out that the comfortable relationship between the regime and the Movement has manifested itself in the Movement's relationship with other political blocs in Parliament which identify with the state's centrist path.

He sees what he described as apprehension, that so far characterised the Movement's relationship with other political forces in country receding and cites the decision of the two traditionalist Parliament blocs — the constitutional and national blocs — to vote for the Movement's candidate for the speakership of the Lower House of Parliament Tuesday as an example.

However, tension between the Movement and the state is not completely absent. Behind the seeming state of co-existence, a silent tug of war still exists if only between some members of the Movement and some in the government and the state security agencies.

That is why the Movement is quick to point out that its intended "openness" is not unconditional or without pur-

pose. "Think of us like you do of a frog," a Muslim Brotherhood deputy said with a smile. "If you watch the frog from afar it will move towards you, but if you scare it, it will run away."

The Movement's leaders say they fear a "shock" from "the security institutions" which, they say, may provide the hardliners among them with an excuse to renege on the unwritten agreement of co-existence with the regime. "What I fear most is that the Brothers would feel trapped."

Although speaking in soft terms and taking pains not to appear confrontational, a prominent member of the Movement said that the "state's official institutions should recognise that after a balloon gets inflated it cannot be compressed again. It will only burst."

"The Brothers have to be understood and allowed to go out into the open," he continued, conceding that some "Brothers" may at one time or another overstep the lines drawn out for them, urging that if their actions did not threaten security they should be contained peacefully.

The Movement has so far placed all its hopes on the King's ability to forgive and forget and express their hope that his "understanding" will spread to the "lower ranks." They use the terminology often employed by the King to drive their point home. "We are a family. The father often finds that he has to endure the minor tantrums of his sons," one Muslim Brotherhood personality said.

The Movement's leaders say that it has become a political body that "accepts and is convinced" that the Jordanian regime is better than other Arab regimes.

As for their declared goal of creating an Islamic state, one of their prominent figures sees this question as redundant at this stage in Jordan's history.

They say that a lot of ground work has to be done before that notion should be entertained. "Carry any Arab or Muslim leader declare an Islamic state considering all the elements at play in the region and the world?" one of them asked.

U.S. in Somali mission in h

By P. V. Vivekanand

WASHINGTON MAY want to limit its military involvement in troubled Somalia and to protect relief supplies and officials, but American soldiers are going to be chewed alive in this Horn of Africa country if they go in without an all-embracing politicised military approach agreed upon by all of the major Somali warlords. And that could be the biggest mine trap for the U.S. or anyone else for that matter, whether in the capital on the Indian Ocean, Mogadishu, or in the interior, where guns make and break the law of the land.

Make no mistake: The welcome extended to the American plan to send up to 20,000 or 30,000 soldiers by interim President Ali Mahdi Mohammad and his rival Mohammed Farah Aided stems not from any keenness to ensure that the starving Somali people are fed but from a desire to forge an alliance with Washington to serve their own interests at the expense of each other.

The political-military balance between one-time brothers-in-arms Ali Mahdi and Aided is constantly shifting, what with the leaders of the dozens of other clans and groups forging and breaking alliances almost every day.

Ali Mahdi, reigning from his fortified seaside headquarters in northern Mogadishu where his forces were confined after a U.N.-brokered ceasefire agreement signed in March, lives in perpetual fear that Aided is only marking time to launch a new all-out assault to dislodge him.

His fears are not unfounded either. Aided forces have the run of most of southern Mogadishu and are linked with others who control the rest in a loose alliance. Thus it is easier for Aided, as seen from the north, to gather enough firepower for a new round of fighting across the "green line."

The key to neutralising the threat, according to Ali Mahdi and his group, is to have a strong buffer force, armed heavily enough to hit back to defend itself if attacked by Aided. That explains the consistent appeals made by the interim president for a "peace-keeping force with teeth" and a national reconciliation conference grouping all factions and leaders.

On the other side of the capital, Aided has his own problems. The apparent "come-back" of forces loyal to ousted dictator Mohammed Siad Barre with the seizure of the key town of Bardere in central Somalia in September has not only dealt a severe blow to his standing but also opened the door for several other factions to cool their alliance with the former army general and diplomat.

"Aided is running out of reliable and loyal manpower to protect his flanks," said a senior U.N. political officer based in Mogadishu. "Men from his clan are already stretched too thin and he cannot count on other sub-groups in the clan to extend full-hearted support."

Perched on such uneasy ground, explains the officer, "it is only natural that Aided is trying to court the Americans by telling them he could be their man in Somalia."

Aided, once a strong ally of Siad Barre, is too well aware that the Americans were more than obliging when the former dictator turned to Washington for help in 1977 after a disastrous war with Ethiopia where his Soviet allies let him down by siding with Addis Ababa.

Beyond the capital, Aided claims he has the "consensus and support" of "patriotic Somali people everywhere in the country." But in a land where tribal and clan politics based on firepower have held sway for centuries, no one could bet on that either.

"The fall of Bardere was a turning point," said the U.N. officer. "The town and the area surrounding it may not have any strategic value, but Aided's failure to retake it has made him lose face among other groups which supported him; in Somalia it counts a lot."

The main facts of the Somali conflict are undisputed: Although an independent country since 1960, Somalia was never a homogeneous nation founded on a single culture, religion or language. Life in the country was always based on clan loyalty, ruthlessness, physical courage and resourcefulness. In short, the fittest always survived.

Siad Barre took power after a military coup in 1969, but since then he plunged the country into one disaster after another, changing alliances with the superpowers and regional countries, serving the interests of his own clan and allies and ruthlessly annihilating others who posed threats and burning his bridges in the process.

It took other clans, who were denied the pickings power, 21 years to selves and topple the bargain, they also political power we means to serve the their individual clan.

New none of then accept anything less share of power with mings, notwithstanding of Aided or, who themselves are vicious circle.

"Even if Aided wanted to get out, Somalia and live some there is no way they said a senior U.N. re

"The forces that say and financed them w eventual political re they gain power, w allow them to quit

Against the back political imbroglio gunmen who obey their own whims and looters roam the co including villages wh are dying every day, and diseases. Mass threaten everything

posing the most seri relief workers and d access to deep pock and death.

Armed Iranian-b damatistial forces w hostility towards an ern are biding the

northeast, while Ma groups are positioned the Somali-Ethiopia

Adding another t ment to the scenario green leaves that a Somali chews to go trip" void of any sene except a feeling of be the world and the s most courageous on earth.

It is into this hor the American soldi walking in.

Without disarmi thousands of self-ay men, every Ameri could be a sitting d strategists sugges

men, who posse armoured person mortar, gunnomet rocket-propelled gratic machinegun, artillery as well as part of it the legacy regime left behind easy targets for "aer tion."

But a quick look- of various Somali to with roaming gunn exact revenge agai on the ground shou suading factor agai

ment. In a nutshell, it is the Americans wou: any organised resis their deployment sio Somali gunmen ar trained to use th weapons. The prob individual gunmen- necessarily belong t and are not easily co deprived of their w their main means themselves and make

law and order in So have to pay a price in a western diplomat Nairobi, Kenya. "The is: Are the Americ to pay that price?"

Aided is suggesti fund be set up to e gunmen to surrend weapons in return for tion. But he insists that the fund — an idea of hand by his rivals w trust him any further could throw him.

A national commit set up to supervise the c but Aided rules out citation of several clan groups which, he arg "nothing to do with top Barre but now want a Somalia."

Obviously he seek that anyone with his banny and arms should his tutelage and con others are only too w ruthlessness and quest lute power in the com

"Anything is possib lia if the warring gr freelance gunmen are vined that the Americ trying to install a rival with complete author by firepower to enforce the diplomat in Nairobi

Washington appear already accepted the pos retaliation. Most Ameri workers left Somalia t two days after the fir the U.S. offer to send t protect relief work in the

"It was decided that not be a very good idea for American national in Somalia," one of the after flying to Nairobi on home.

But what about those in? The writer, on the st Jordan Times, has ju from a three-week vis

Israeli Palestinians

(Continued from page 1) period before a final solution is reached.

The sources told the Jordan Times that the U.S. had constantly asked the Palestinian negotiators to engage in detailed discussions with their Israeli counterparts before rejecting the proposals outright, and that their ability to draw up a structure of the Israeli model during the last round of talks had "revealed the Israeli plan and intentions, which are violations of the terms of reference."

The Israeli proposals on the Palestinian interim self-government arrangements allow very limited self-rule for the Palestinians and disregard the terms of reference of the peace process, mainly Security Council resolutions 242 and 338, the sources said.

The Palestinians, the source said, had concluded that the Israeli proposal for the interim period only provided the following: — It grants Israeli settlements legitimacy and gives settlers in the occupied territories "maximum autonomy" and ensures that they are not affected by the Palestinian authority, thus "creating a dual judicial system similar to apartheid based on discrimination on our soil."

— Israel maintains "maximum control" over the Palestinian people, including in fields which are supposed to be transferred to Palestinian jurisdiction;

— It does not provide a genuine transfer of authority and is only a limited transfer of power in some sectors;

— The complex and multiple land administration and legal system (some of which is under Palestinian rule, some under Israeli rule and most under joint rule) prejudices the final status of the occupied territories, paving the way to Israel's annexation of a large part of the occupied territories;

— There is no mention of withdrawal or military redeployment and only provides use of land rather than Palestinian ownership over large parts of the land, and it lays claim to shared control over a large portion of the territory;

— It does not provide an Israeli commitment that settlement activity will end during the interim period; and

— It excludes East Jerusalem from the arrangement. The Palestinian delegation found that the model for the interim period would remain "vulnerable, weak and devoid of any legitimacy." The sources said that Israeli delegation was told that their model "would not constitute a valid experience in co-existence nor a step towards a real solution or peace."

JORDAN WELFARE LOTTERY

Issue No. 22

Drawing of Dec. 2, 1992

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Holder of ticket No. 98547 Wins JD 30,000	Ten consolation prizes totaling JD 1,200 each with JD 120 98549 98558 98648 99548 08548 98547 98558 98448 97548 88548
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Holder of ticket No. 78281 Wins JD 3,500	Ten consolation prizes totaling JD 400 each with JD 40 78282 78291 78381 79281 88281 78280 78271 78181 77281 68281
Holder of ticket No. 61167 Wins JD 2,500	Ten consolation prizes totaling JD 200 each with JD 20 61168 61177 61267 62167 71167 61166 61157 61067 60167 51167
Holder of ticket No. 44804 Wins JD 1,500	Ten consolation prizes totaling JD 150 each with JD 15 44805 44814 44904 45804 54804 44803 44894 44704 43804 34804
Holder of ticket No. 54984 Wins JD 1,200	Ten consolation prizes totaling JD 100 each with JD 10 54985 54994 54084 55984 64984 54983 54974 54884 53984 44984
Holder of ticket No. 82285 Wins JD 1,000	Ten consolation prizes totaling JD 80 each with JD 8 82286 82295 82385 83285 92285 82284 82275 82185 81285 72285
Holder of ticket No. 14031 Wins JD 800	Ten consolation prizes totaling JD 70 each with JD 7 14032 14041 14131 15031 24031 14030 14021 14931 13031 04031

Ticket numbers	84139 69337 67071 51614	Win JD 200 each
Ticket numbers	84138 97277 19095	Win JD 100 each

TICKETS ENDING WITH

3817 3264 9637	Win JD 50 each	4471 0878 3060	Win JD 20 each
3406 2493 5718	Win JD 10 each	4120 8075	Win JD 10 each
1630 8506	Win JD 10 each	323 151 429 380	Win JD 5 each
09	Win JD 3 each	10,000 ticket ending with Zero	Win JD 2 each

COVER PRIZES FOR THE LOTTERY SELLERS

50 covers, attached to the stub of 10 ending in	053 607 975 535 720	Win JD 16
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Winners of the grand prizes in the ordinary issue number 21 of Dec. Nov. 17, 1992

Hassan Abu Qhail Amman - Merchant Half first JD 15,000	Mohammed Muhanna Amman - Worker Half second JD 3,500	Khaled Abu Juma Baqaa - Driver Half second JD 3,500	Issam Dabbas Baqaa - Teacher Full third JD 3,500	Mohammed Alnawab Irbid - Student Full third JD 3,500	Fahad Al Adnan Amman - Policeman Full fourth JD 2,500

Next Draw takes place on December 17, 1992

First biggest prizes are issued from GUVS headquarters

تَكَذَّبُ مِنَ الْأَصْلِ

Weekender

What's in a hat?

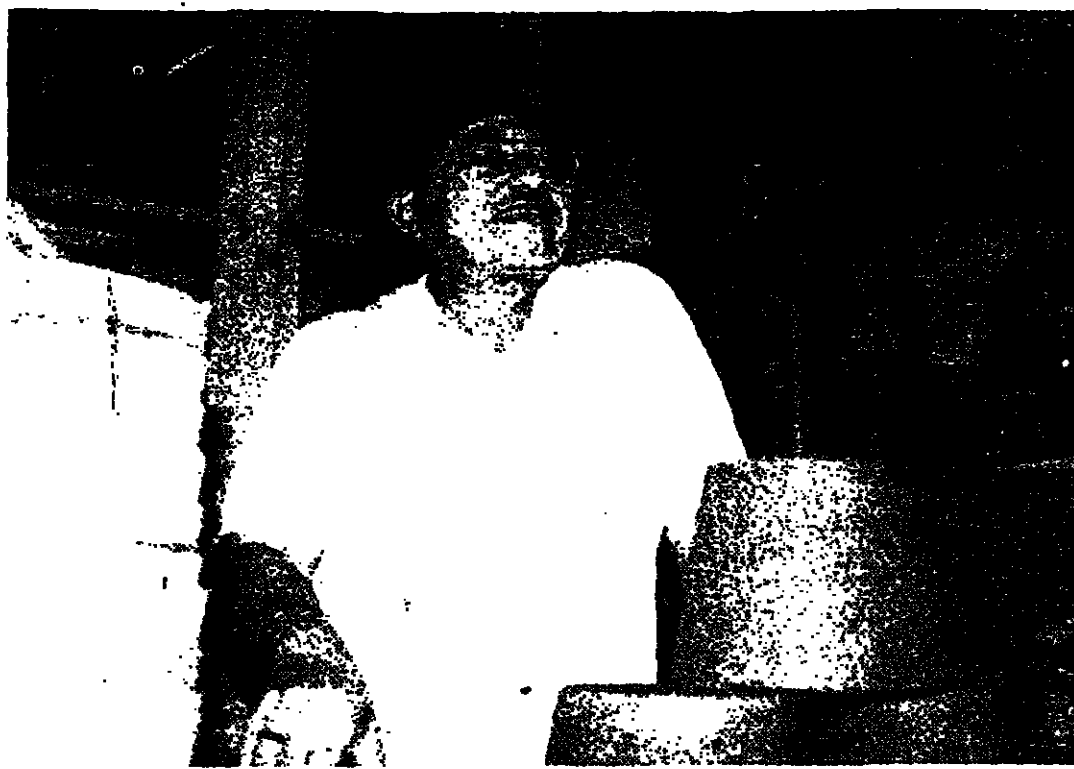
By Katia Sabet

CAIRO — One of the first questions people ask Robert Solé when he mentions his new book is an explanation of the title, *The Tarboosh*. What, they say, is a tarboosh? For the uninitiated, he explains, the tarboosh is, or more correctly was, quite simply one of the most fashionable, the most showy, the most ludicrous and the most uncomfortable forms of head covering ever designed. Yet for most of the 19th century, and a good part of the 20th, no self-respecting Egyptian male would be seen without one. Up until the revolution of 1952, which led to the abolition of the Egyptian monarchy, the tarboosh was standard headgear in Egypt. It was worn by rich and poor alike, members of the royal family and station-masters, Christians and Muslims.

Solé, who is joint-editor of the leading French newspaper *Le Monde*, took the hat as the symbol and the title of his first novel with the idea, he says, of "telling his children about the past." The past in question is partly his own, for Solé is descended from Egypt's Greek Catholic community, Christians of Syrian origin who broke away from the Orthodox rite and established themselves in the eastern Mediterranean basin during the 18th century.

The *Tarboosh* is the story of one family — the Batrakianis — who came to Egypt last century, at a time when the country was opening up to the outside world. The novel, which sold 45,000 copies in the first month of publication alone, traces the Batrakianis' progress through times of prosperity and wealth up until the day when, due to a series of political, economic and social changes, the family decided to leave Egypt for foreign shores.

Solé was born in Egypt in 1946, a Greek Catholic who describes himself as a "Levantine", and physically he conforms to the Hollywood image of someone of his background. He is dark, handsome and has the inevitable velvet-brown eyes. His intelligence is obvious, but so too is a strong sense of



Hassan Saad, following in his family's footsteps, is one of the few remaining makers of the tarboosh.

An astute businessman, he also stocks a range of veils and shawls for women.

humour, perfectly controlled but never far from the surface. It is a measure of Solé's keen sense of irony and fun that of all the professions he could have chosen for his protagonists, he settled on that of the hat-maker, and specifically the manufacturer of the tarboosh.

These days in Egypt there are still some old men who cling to the tradition of wearing this most striking form of headgear. Like their forefathers before them, they wear it in the street but also at home. Unlike a normal hat, the tarboosh is traditionally removed only when its owner retires to bed. In the old days, the tarboosh was like an extension of the face. Any man looked strange without one.

It was the new post-war generation who decided the custom was archaic and the hat itself a cumbersome anachronism. Fouad D., a Cairo lawyer now nearing 70, well recalls his distaste for the tarboosh, though his profession demanded he wear one. "I loathed it; I found it heavy, ugly and ridiculous," he said. "But when I appeared in court, I was obliged to wear one, just as I

had to wear a gown. It was a question of tradition. One day, I decided I had had enough and I turned up at court bareheaded. When the judge told me to put my hat on, I very politely replied that there was no rule which said I had to. From that day on, many of my colleagues began turning up without theirs."

In 1952, on the crest of the wave of the revolution, tarbooshes worn by members of the army and the police force were replaced by Western-style peaked caps. The move was the signal for other sectors of society, especially the young, to discard theirs too. The older generation and the tarboosh makers were the only ones who were sorry to see the old headgear go. Some of these latter quickly turned to making military caps instead. Others simply went out of business. Today, the only tarboosh makers still to be found are in the old neighbourhoods of Cairo, close to the Islamic University of Azhar, the training ground of many of Egypt's religious leaders who to this day continue to dress as they would have done 100 years ago, though their tarbooshes

are more akin to skullcaps than to the upturned-bucket style which was most common.

"Tarbooshes were not always rigid," said Hassan Saad, one of the few people still practicing this ancient craft. Mr. Saad's father was a tarboosh maker, as was his grandfather and his great-grandfather. "They began pressing them into a stiff shape at the end of last century," said Mr. Saad. "There are many kinds of tarboosh. You can't lump them all together. The height, the colour, the distance between the brim and the crown, the way the tarboosh is worn — pushed forward on the forehead, further back, to one side — all these details say a great deal about the personality of its wearer and distinguish one client from another."

Mr. Saad still talks about the headgear in the present tense. And in his small shop in the old Cairo quarter of Ghoureia it is indeed as if time has stood still. Shelves groan beneath the weight of bolts of red felt, linings made of plaited palm-fiber, boxes of black silk tassels. Yet it is a singularly modern invention — television — which accounts for most of his custom, ordered for period productions for which the tarboosh is essential.

Mr. Saad uses the old-style technique — with no short

cuts — to produce his tarbooshes. First comes the palm-fiber lining, fashioned in various thicknesses, according to the customer. To the outside of this, Mr. Saad sews the skullcap, made of a pure woolen felt that comes from Mehalla, the centre of the Egyptian textile industry. At this stage, the hat is soaked in water and placed on a hot press made of brass that has become polished with years of use. By the time it comes off the press, the tarboosh is stiff and cylindrical in shape. Mr. Saad cuts it to the required height, using a tape measure and a giant pair of scissors. Then, inside the hat, his assistants sew a goatskin headband which bears Mr. Saad's logo in letters of gold: "Saqr Khoreich" — the "Falcon of Khoreich."

"The height of a tarboosh varies from person to person," said Mr. Saad. "In the old days, young men who were tall and very sure of themselves used to go for an arrogant-style tarboosh, which was usually bright red and a good 22 centimetres high. More modest customers chose a tarboosh the colour of wine dregs, that was between 18 and 20 centimetres high. But (TV) producers don't bother about such details and always order the same brightly-coloured tarboosh, which they choose with the studio lighting in mind."

In former times, the tarboosh came in four colours. The first, the most garish, was popular with pale-skinned foreign customers. It gave its name to the colour known in Egypt as "ahmar inglizi", or English red. The darkest shade, number four, was a deep bordeaux, far more sober in tone. These days, says Mr. Saad, shades



Hassan Saad still uses the old techniques to produce his tarbooshes; first comes a palm fiber lining — in various

thicknesses to suit the customer — to which is sewn the woolen felt skullcap

three and four are the ones most often chosen by religious leaders who come to his store.

The tarboosh continues to be worn in Jordan, Syria, Iraq and parts of the former Yugoslavia, though sometimes it is adorned with a length of white material which is wound round the base something like a turban. Mr. Saad regrets the passing of the tarboosh in his native Egypt, where most men now go bareheaded. But he is too much of a realist to believe it will ever make a comeback. "It's a fashion that has had its time and is over," he said. "Perhaps in a few years' time we'll start wearing some new form of headgear but for the time being I can't see anything that could replace the tarboosh. Perhaps the white skull cap worn by Islamic fundamentalists?"

Hoping to cash in on a new trend, Mr. Saad already has a good stock of white skull caps, delicately worked in crochet. "Times change," he

said. "Thirty years ago, women in this neighbourhood wore the 'melaya laff', a piece of black material which covered their entire bodies. These days they wear many different kinds of veil. Times change!"

Like the astute businessman he is, Mr. Saad has adapted to the swings in fashion: He also stocks a range of veils and shawls for

women. It is this type of versatility, this highly practical streak so prevalent in the Orient, that Robert Solé has so cleverly captured in his novel. But Mr. Saad has no knowledge of Solé or his book, and as for the Batrakianis family around whom the tale revolves, "Batrakianis...who?" he asks. "Never heard of them" — World News Link.

BOOK BRIEF

A covert operation

The Bear Trap: Afghanistan's Untold Story
By Mohammad Yousaf and Mark Adkin
Leo Cooper, London 1992, £16.50

The *Bear Trap* offers an in-depth look at the role of foreign nations in supporting the Afghan resistance's struggle to oust Soviet troops from Afghanistan. Yousaf, who headed the Afghan bureau of the Pakistan Intelligence Service (ISI) from 1983 to 1987, was charged with organising and supporting the Mujahedin war effort. He knows perhaps better than any single person the dynamics of the war in Afghanistan during these years.

The book is valuable not so much for its revelations on what happened during the war but for explaining the motives behind political and military initiatives taken by Pakistani President Zia ul-Haq, ISI Director Akhtar Abdul Rehman Khan (Yousaf's immediate boss), Afghan resistance leaders, American politicians and CIA officials, and Yousaf himself.

Yousaf, then the commander of an infantry brigade, was summoned by Akhtar in October 1983. Like many of his colleagues in the military, he doubted the USSR could be pushed out of Afghanistan, and feared that supporting the Mujahedin would only provoke direct retaliation from the Soviet Union on the Mujahedin's life-line — Pakistan. Several weeks after joining the ISI, however, Yousaf had a change of heart, and formulated a long-term strategy of "death by a thousand cuts" to secure the withdrawal of some 85,000 Soviet troops from Afghanistan. Yousaf and Akhtar were confident that the Afghan regime in Kabul would then collapse with little resistance.

Yousaf's "thousand cuts" policy soon turned into a strategy of inflicting gaping wounds on the Soviet army. At the suggestion of CIA Director William Casey, Yousaf initiated a series of successful Mujahedin attacks inside Soviet territory beginning in 1984, followed two years later by what Yousaf sees as the key to the Mujahedin's success — the introduction of the Stinger anti-aircraft missile.

Yousaf looked at the Afghan war from a strictly military point of view: he was not concerned with politics. He was inevitably disappointed when some key operations were cancelled by President Zia, such as the cross-border attacks inside the Soviet Union. Zia insisted that "the war in Afghanistan must boil at the right temperature." This meant that enough pressure should be applied to the Soviets to keep them from entrenching themselves too firmly in Afghanistan, but not so much as to push them to retaliate with air attacks or sabotage inside Pakistan.

Yousaf considered U.S. and Arab supporters outsiders and was unimpressed by U.S. officials' obsession with "burning the Soviets" to get back for their failure in Vietnam. He portrays himself as a mediator between the Mujahedin and these outsiders, whom he saw as attempting to turn the Afghan "jihad" into a proxy war for their own interests. Yousaf also explains a major divergence in interests between Pakistan and the U.S. as Soviet troops were finally withdrawn in 1988-89, and how he believes the U.S. deliberately prevented a total Mujahedin victory for fear of "Islamic fundamentalism" taking power in Kabul.

Although Yousaf and Adkin describe how some individuals pushed unsuitable weapons systems on the Mujahedin to collect commissions, they gloss over widespread accusations of corruption and drug-smuggling directed at both the Mujahedin and their military sponsors. Yousaf writes that as far as he knows, the pipeline was water-tight from the time the weapons arrived in Pakistan to the time they were distributed to rebel commanders.

The *Bear Trap* is a unique inside view of what was probably the largest U.S. covert operation since World War II. The popularity in Europe and the U.S. of support for the Mujahedin discouraged serious inquiry into how it was done. Yousaf and Adkin shed valuable light on the delicate balance Pakistan attempted to maintain between the Mujahedin, their supporters, and the Soviet Union for more than a decade — Middle East International.

Charles Neely

THOUGHTS FOR THIS WEEK

It is better to debate an important matter without settling it than to settle it without debating it
— Anonymous.

The world war after the next one will be fought with rocks
— Albert Einstein, German-born physicist (1879-1955).

To conquer without risk is to triumph without glory
— Pierre Corneille, French dramatist (1606-1684).

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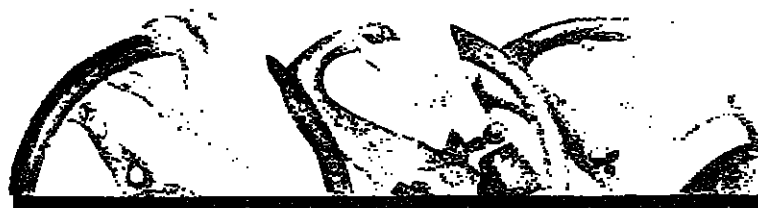
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Shrinking world

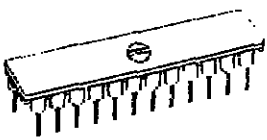
By Jean-Claude Elias

Computers are getting smaller and more powerful every day. The speed of this change is a fascinating subject by itself. Back in 1984, merely eight years ago, a typical hard disk for personal computers (PC's) — with a 10-million-character capacity, or 10 MB, weighed eight kilograms and occupied 2100 cm³ of space. Today, a 200 MB hard disk weighs 1.5 kgs and occupies 450 cm³. Considering the capacity, the weight and the physical size, the reduction factor is therefore a "mind boggling" 500. And this is only on commercially available and inexpensive magnetic disks. The factor for laser discs is even more impressive.

Hard disks are only one element in a long list of computer components that have seen their size being drastically reduced in the last decade. Memory chips and microprocessors have also been scaled down to limits that were unthinkable only a few years ago. Electronics miniaturisation didn't start with the PC's but about 40 years ago when transistors started to replace the vacuum tubes in amplification and other similar circuitry. They were followed by the revolutionary introduction of the integrated circuits (IC's) offering the equivalent function of hundreds of transistors on a single silicon chip, in less than a square inch. The primary IC's were themselves followed by the Large Scale Integration (LSI) and finally the Very Large Scale Integration (VLSI) IC's which simply meant more of the same in even less space.

As impressive as it can be, the size reduction in pure electronics like memory chips and IC's is nothing when compared to micromachines. Scientists have started to apply the same principles of miniaturisation to devices which, this time, include levers, gears and motors, in other words moving parts. Small hard disks can be defined as

chip talk



micromachines. Hewlett-Packard have just launched a hard disk the size of a matchbox. Olivetti announced a notebook computer, fully IBM-AT compatible — complete with a high resolution screen, a hard disk, a floppy disk, a keyboard and actual voice recording — half the size of an A4 sheet. Micro motors already exist that have to be seen through a magnifying glass.

The theoretical and absolute limits seem to be the atom and its particles. Almaden Research Centre in USA have developed an electronic switch, with memory, consisting of a single atom. Writes Gary Hall of Electronic Musician magazine: "...The atomic switch is breathtakingly simple, the atom swings to one or other two electrodes..." Researchers believe they could put the entire Library of Congress on a single 12-inch disk soon. Analog Devices — USA are marketing a complete accelerometer-on-a-chip for less than \$10. An accelerometer is a device which senses acceleration — it is used in automotive air-bags security systems.

I still remember this science-fiction movie, a few years ago: A microscopic submarine, with an equally microscopic medical team on board, was injected into a patient's bloodstream. It "sailed" up to the point where it located the viruses, killed them, and then returned to the outside world to retake their original size. If we are not here yet, very serious scientists think that this should not be considered insane, or science-fiction anymore. The above scenario, with some modifications maybe, could be a reality sooner than we think. What would Pascal or Babbage have thought of today's supercomputers? Insane? Certainly not.

What matters is not the capability that the industry has to make electronics smaller and smaller. The usefulness of this miniaturisation is the concern of all those interested and working on the ergonomics of machines, i.e., the adaptability of the machines to the human body. If we can imagine how nice it would be to have a supercomputer in our pocket, or to wear it as a wrist watch, we still need a full size keyboard and a regular screen, as long as our sight is the same and no one has miniaturised our fingers. Some will reasonably argue that we might not need keyboards in the future and that we'll be able to talk to computers in our own native language. We'll probably have a lot to re-think by then. Let's wait and see how computers and micromachines will change our world.

When children cry

By E. Yaghi

In the years that are called childhood, people develop their identity. They acquire cognitive skills, such as reasoning and remembering and traits of affection such as the ability to love and trust others. During this stage, children learn to want to please others, to obey and to question authority and to act in what they and their superiors define as a moral way.

There are a series of stages through which all children pass on their way to becoming functioning members of society. But what do the harsh and cruel measures used by the Israeli government against the Palestinians of the West Bank and Gaza do to its victims and to the formative stages of development in the children? A particular cause for concern is the detention, deportation and restriction of persons who are denied due process of law as a matter of official policy and the routine refusal of the state of Israel to produce any evidence of guilt. Many of the people who are treated without due process of law are children of all ages, who are arbitrarily arrested, sometimes directly out of the school room, by Israeli forces. They are systematically humiliated and beaten during the course of their interrogation and detention. Many are imprisoned without charge and released without ever having a trial. Imprisoned children can be detained incommunicado for up to 14 days during which time they are not allowed to contact their families, an attorney or human rights organisations. Only after the passage of 14 days is the Red Cross then permitted access to imprisoned children and youths if at all. Those who are brought to trial appear before a military judge who often bases his decision upon a confession forcibly extracted from the accused child or upon the testimony of another young person who was coerced into providing such information. A "confession" written in Hebrew may not be reviewed by an attorney or translated into Arabic until it has been signed. There are neither appeals nor commuted sentences for good behaviour.

Eyewitness defence by parents, neighbours or teachers is routinely dismissed in favour of testimony by Israeli military personnel. Further, Israeli military prison personnel beat confined children and youths with fists, sticks, wires and wooden truncheons which are sometimes armed with nails and metal straps and iron rods and other bludgeoning instruments. Young detainees have been kicked, dragged on the ground or floor, hung by their wrists from the ceiling and blindfolded or hooded with heavy cloth sacks that have been fouled with urine, excrement, vomit or blood. And then there are those that never return home because they were murdered.

The following is one of many true stories of maltreatment of a boy named Aziz.

HIS STORY

I am ten years old and I live in Gaza City. I am a child of the intifada and Israeli occupation and have never known anything else. One day around 2 o'clock in the afternoon, I and four of my friends were playing marbles in the streets beside our homes. All of a sudden, I saw Israeli soldiers, who were on foot, calling to us. There were about 15 of them. "Stop!" one shouted, "or we'll shoot!"

Then jeeps arrived. Some soldiers jumped out and asked us gruffly, "What are you boys doing?"

My friends pushed me in the front to speak for them and I answered with my whole body trembling, "We are just playing. We're not causing any trouble."

We had been amusing ourselves with our marbles, were not on any main road, nor were there any demonstrations where we were. I could see hate in the eyes of the soldiers. They shoved us together and ordered us to get them.

"Where are you taking us?" I cried. "We're nothing wrong!"

"Shut up!" a soldier snapped. They herded us into an empty house. We went since it seemed no use to protest our innocence. The we were led into was used for a makeshift barn and donkeys and cows were kept. Some of the soldiers put poles and sticks which they found lying about started to beat us. They also hit us with their truncheons. Seven soldiers beat us while the rest guard outside.

"Please leave us alone!" I screamed. "We are innocent. Why do you hit us? Oh, God, please help us!"

The other boys screamed too as the soldiers hit over our bodies. One of them grabbed me and was beating me with all his effort on my back and arms. I hear some women yelling outside the house, "Let Stop flogging those boys! Let them go!"

But they didn't stop and continued to beat us for 15 minutes as though we were their worst enemies and killed someone dear to them. Then the women themselves past the outside sentries and broke into the house. The soldiers finally released us and left. I saw my friends. Did I look as bad as them? They were covered with blood and their faces were cut and swollen. One had apparently called my mother and she rushed in. She saw me she started to weep. I had terrible pain in my arm and my back and almost fainted so I was taken to hospital where the doctor said that I might have a ruptured kidney and that my arm was fractured. After I had bandaged and given a sedative and stretched out on a hospital bed, I began to cry. All I could think of was, thought the Israelis were going to kill me and my friends will never forget their faces which were masks of When a few days had passed of my staying in the thinking of nothing much else but my traumatic experience and all the pain I had. I asked my mother about the little boy on the bed next to me.

She answered, "His name is Maher and he's five old. The other day an Israeli patrol passed his house was standing outside and made the V-for-victory sign his hand. The patrol stopped and started beating the One soldier then picked him up and threw him as he he could on the ground. He lost consciousness and deep wound in his head. The doctors don't know if he or not and if he does live whether he will be non

What has the world done? What has it begun? with their land, Palestinian childhood has been confided from their righteous owners. The identity of these children and their sense of self is being denied them. How will cognitive skills or reasoning and remembering and innocent traits of love and trust be affected? What morals will they adopt and how will they ever become functioning members of their society? What this cycle of hatred, vengeance and brutality ever end there be hope in the peace conferences?

The Arab society is like a body or organ. As long as part of it remains in pain, then the whole will suffer, never realise peace.

ON THE LIGHTER SIDE

By Mohammad A. Shugair

BITING, BUT CLEVER DEFINITIONS

- SWINDLER: A character who is quick on the trickery.
SWIMMER: A pool shark.
STATESMAN — A diplomat with a diploma.
— A politician away from home.
— A congressman seeking reelection.
STOMACH: — The home of the swallow.
— The organ of indigestion.
— Something to hold petticoats.
SPECIALIST: A man who knows more and more about less and less.

AMAZING FACTS

- At the time of the Great London Fire, 1666, London covered 375 acres.
- Only 75 of these acres came out unscathed.
- The cormorant can swim just as fast as it can fly.
- Oaks are usually the last trees in the forest that shed their leaves.
- There are about two thousand varieties of shrimp.
- A person who has six fingers or six toes on one or both of his hands or feet is said to be afflicted with "hexadactylism."

LET'S CHAT IN ARABIC

- Fine, O.K.: Jameel, tayyeb.
— Here you are./Go ahead./Do join us: Tafaddal.
— Maybe: Yimkin.
— Nevermind: Maaleesh; hassal kheir.
— What a pity: Yakhhsara!
— Honest to God: Wallahil azeem!
— Please...(excuse me): Law samahat.
— Let's go!: Yalla, hayya bina!
— Wait just a minute: Istanna labza.
— That's enough: Kafaya, hass.
— Great, wonderful: Aal, modbishi!
— Look! The shop is empty.: Shoof! El dokkan fadia.
— What about going to the theatre? Eish ra'yak n'rook al masrah?
— Why not. I don't mind.: Leish la. Ma'indeesh mani'.
— I (let's) hope so. (God willing): Insha Allah.

TEST YOUR KNOWLEDGE

- Why is a fox called "reynard"?
- What is a Lincoln Red, a Kerry Blue, a Meadow Brown, a Middle White?
- What was an antinacassar and why was it so called?
- Who said: "Speak softly and carry a big stick"?
- Where is Famagusta and in which play of Shakespeare is it the scene of much of the action?

LAUGH TIME

"What is the plural of man, Hoda? asked the teacher.
"Men," answered Hoda.
"And the plural of child?"
"Twins," was the unexpected reply.

See Solutions on page D

Salesman: "Ladies and gentlemen, I have here the famous, wonderful and flexible comb that will stand any kind of treatment. You can bend it double, you can hit it with a hammer. You can twist it. You can....."

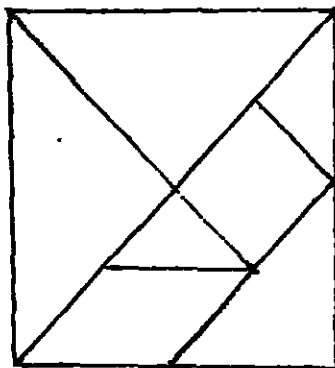
Interested listener: "Say mister, can you comb your hair with it?"

Warden: "I've been in charge of this prison for 20 years and that calls for a celebration. What kind of a party would you boys suggest?"
Prisoners: "Open house!"

PUZZLES

TANGRAMS, which are Chinese in origin, are flat shapes made of wood or card (even paper will do) which offer a variety of intriguing puzzles.

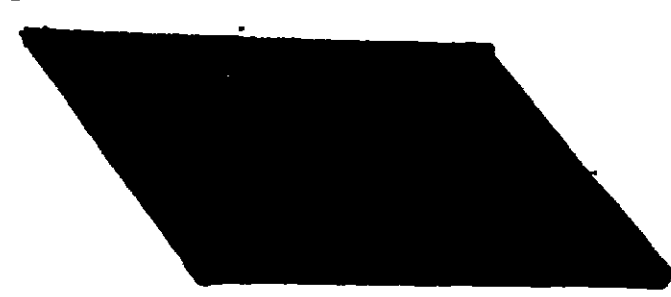
Given the seven basic shapes:



Can you arrange them to form this letter "E"?



Now, can you rearrange them to form this parallelogram?



You must use all the pieces in both cases.

THIS WEEK IN HISTORY

Thursday, Dec. 3

- 1808 — Madrid surrenders to Napoleon Bonaparte's French forces.
- 1810 — British capture Mauritius from French.
- 1912 — Armistice is signed between Turkey, Bulgaria, Serbia and Montenegro.
- 1944 — U.S. forces cross Saar River in Germany in World War II.
- 1961 — United States deploys platoon of troops along border between East and West Berlin as east Germany begins strengthening Berlin Wall.
- 1962 — London is blanketed by one of the worst fogs in years, and scores of people die of sulphur dioxide poisoning before fog lifts four days later.
- 1971 — India declares state of emergency as Pakistani planes attack northwestern India in dispute over Kashmir.
- 1975 — Communists take control of Laos and declare end to 600-year-old monarchy.
- 1984 — Hundreds are reported dead and several thousand stricken after inhaling poisonous cyanide gas which leaked from Union Carbide insecticide factory in central India.
- 1988 — Pakistan's Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto, in first official act, calls for release of about 1,000 political prisoners and commutes all death sentences.
- 1989 — East German politician and Central Committee resign.
- 1991 — Alann Steen, American held hostage for nearly five years, is released by Shiite Muslim kidnappers in Beirut.

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Actor/director Branagh admits to hard work

By Robert Shelton
NDON — The meteoric and stage star Kenneth Branagh has been astounding everyone, including himself, 10 years. As he launches his third film, Peter's, next month and completes his fourth, Much About Nothing, the ambitious actor, director and producer is taking a look at the past and planning his future. The Branagh we met at Coventry recently at a Guild of Re- it us with the Film Writers meeting a mellowed artist, willing to reveal his anxieties about directing, his ambitions and his love-hate relationship with Hollywood.

Branagh confesses that his directing films puts him under almost unbearable pressure. Yet he wants to produce more and more in the future. "I don't go to film school," he says. "My experience comes from other places. I'm in the business of the absolute mad and the absolute brilliant. It's a very, very privileged position. But it's also very hard. And you can understand directors having breakdowns, because there's so much money involved."

The 32-year-old Belfast actor's son burst on the London stage a decade ago in the first production of

Another Country. Since then, his virtuoso acting and directing has earned him the nickname of "the new Olivier." The comparison seemed especially fitting four years ago when he remade Shakespeare's Henry V, one of Olivier's finest films.

For a time thereafter, Britain seemed almost too small for talents as big as Branagh's and that of his wife, actress Emma Thompson. There was inevitable jealousy in the showbiz world following their fascinating TV series, Fortunes of War. And the modesty of his writing his "life story" at 28 generated an "anti-Branagh backlash" among his peers.

If his 1990-91 Hollywood venture, Dead Again, a Hitchcock-influenced mystery, had not been a success, Branagh explained, his view of the world's film capital would have been totally different. "Living in Los Angeles is like being in a movie itself. Those streets, with that atmosphere, and those studios, with all their history of film, cannot fail to be intoxicating. But it has a level of unreality. The idea of living there on a permanent basis is not something that attracts me."

"There is a fictional notion of this Hollywood thing, a collection of parties and peo-

ple and houses. A notion that Jack Nicholson is talking over the fence to Marlon Brando. Wheeler-dealing is going on all the time. Of course, it's an industry town, and it's full of business and very tawdry in many ways," the star continued.

"Still, Hollywood is fascinating," he said, "but not as glamorous if you're working in it. It's my personality not to be interested in the whole party circuit, the lunch circuit and premieres. It's just not my bag."

Branagh shot Peter's Friends in Britain. He added, "I do want to be back here, you know. People keep telling me that I live in Los Angeles, but, in fact, I don't. I do live here (he has an apartment in Kilburn, North London). Even given that our film industry is continually tottering and teetering on there's so much more of a purpose making films here."

Branagh manages to produce his films on a relatively modest budget. He explained that actors and actresses in his films benefit from a successful film by participating in the profits it makes — they receive deferred rights against profits.

Many people took Branagh's rise in the 1980s as an apparently effortless outburst of natural talent, yet he

admits there is much hard work involved. After the ordeals of directing Dead Again last year, he took three months off to see just where he'd been and where he was going. It's a sense of his candor and maturity that he can speak publicly about the promise and the perils of film directing.

Branagh, who is something of a dynamo, said: "Directing is continual pressure to finish a day's work. You readily get behind because of things you can't foresee...bits of bad weather or actors and director not hitting it off."

A director, he continued, has to concentrate on remembering "everything! You're sitting here and ask yourself, Is the camera there? Where's the light? Will the sun match the shot we did this morning?" His catalogue of problems mounted as he referred to an actress he had argued with — and then there was the matter of the catering.

"I find it rather relaxing to just act, you know. Someone else calls 'action,' not me, thank God, and suddenly, you're acting for a bit. I find directing very, very difficult, while I can do acting with great zeal."

Peter's Friends, a sort of British "Big Chill" about a reunion of a group of friends,

many of whom suffer from career and personal crises, will have its premiere at the London Film Festival next month and open in the Midlands in mid-November. Branagh plays a film writer suffering from thwarted ambitions.

How close to himself is that character? Branagh replied that ambition has long been a concern of his. "Back at the start of my twenties, I should have thought about that. There's this little crossroads, a Hamletising moment when you think, what am I doing? Where am I going? Hamlet is full of stuff about ambition," he explained. "I was and am ambitious. Ambition is a healthy thing."

Weeks ago, Branagh finished filming Much Ado About Nothing in northern Italy. "It was the first film where I really felt I had got some grasp of what I was doing in a way that opened up enormous possibilities," he said. "I had had more practice, and it made me want to make more films. That's my ambition at the moment — to be allowed to do that."

When the going gets rough for the actor-director, he likes to indulge himself with "a treat." Often it can be nothing more than some fish and chips. Recently, he recalled,



Shown here with actress Rita Rudolph, Kenneth Branagh plans to do more directing

led, while visiting his wife on the set of the new Merchant Ivory film, The Remains Of The Day, in Weston-Super-Mare, he had a treat on the beach of fish and chips wrapped in newspaper.

"I found myself very much at home and...licked though it sounds, I felt very comfort-

able and happy to be in this pretty seaside town out of season," he said.

"I remembered that the last time I had fish and chips was when I was having a particularly bad time on Dead Again, not dealing particularly well with the pressures. My treat was to go

down to Santa Monica pier and have fish and chips there, too. I don't know what that says about me, except that there is something about that which represents some kind of a connection with this part of the world — which means I won't be moving to Hollywood" — World News Link.

Indonesia's shadow puppets provide drama and social comment

By Moses Manoharan
 Reuter

JAKARTA, Indonesia's shadow puppet theatre continues to modern issues from dancing to family planning as they present centuries-old Hindu epics tales.

But we have to be careful, says 50-year-old Basir, a puppeteer for Wayang Kulit, or Shadow Puppet, in this central Javanese capital.

Sharp criticism of the gov-

ernment is out of bounds and whenever there is a danger of being politically risqué the Javanese tradition of indirect comment comes into play.

The theatre, which traces its origins back for centuries, offers its avid followers cheap entertainment often into the early hours of the morning.

Comment on issues of the day is usually spoken by clown characters whose roles are woven into tales from the originally Indian epics of the Ramayana and Mahabharata

at performances staged in towns and villages in Indonesia's cultural heartland of central Java. The puppets, made of exotically-painted leather and manipulated with buffalo-horn sticks, make their exits and entrances to the accompaniment of a Gamelan percussion orchestra.

Spectators sit in front of or behind a cloth screen on to which the puppets' shadows are thrown by a powerful lamp.

"The puppeteer is almost

like a divine power controlling a universe," says theatre personality Didik Nini Thowok.

The puppet-master sings in a melodic drone the prologue to an episode of one of the Hindu tales, then modulates his voice for male or female roles.

"Didik said the characters used subtle jokes to make their point on more important issues, avoiding the directness which Javanese tradition — and government

officialdom — frowned upon.

"Then people feel they are being lectured to," said Didik, who plays the clown in the masked dances which have developed from the shadow puppet tradition.

He said the government had asked both the masked dancers and the puppet-masters to promote family planning to help control a population that is the world's fourth biggest at 180 million.

"We also make comments against the growing preference of Indonesian teenagers

for discotheque dancing and Western culture in general over traditional forms of art," Didik said.

"People prefer to get their information through Wayang Kulit rather than television because of its long tradition and tight involvement with the people," says R.M. Soedarsono, rector of the Indonesia Institute of Arts in Jogjakarta.

He said the style also suited the Javanese way of life.

"We are an introverted people. We shun direct contact and prefer to be informed through symbolism," Mr. Soedarsono said rural folk regarded puppet-masters as wizards and the performance as a ritual used to exorcise spirits and prevent evil.

Puppet-masters can charge up to 10 million rupiah (\$5,000) for a performance.

"And no one bargains over the cost because they fear that it could lessen the strength of the perform-

ance," said Mr. Soedarsono.

Thirty-year-old Suparno, training to be a puppeteer, says he sees the job as being able to comment on social issues, including politics.

"It is a big risk," Suparno said.

He was not referring to official wrath but to the hazards of dealing with spirits which come into play during a performance.

"We need magical powers to deal with them, but always for good," he said.

JTV CHANNEL 2 WEEKLY PREVIEW

Thursday, Dec. 3

Uncle Buck
 teaches Margaret a lesson about being attached to past and not to forget it.

Civil Wars
 cases of two couples: contesting the custody of daughter and the other testing the division of assets.

News In English
Movie Of The Week
 dent At Crestridge

ring: Eileen Brennan
 story of the lady sheriff tried to clean the city corruption but failed.

Friday, Dec. 4

Too Close For Comfort
Nonni And Manni
News In English
The Antagonists
Mr. Bean

Saturday, Dec. 5

America's Funniest Videos
Perspective
Varieties
News In English
French Feature Film

Zizanie

Sunday, Dec. 6

8:30 Family Matters
Basketball Blues

The father will train his son, Eddie, to play basketball.

9:10 Documentary — National Geographic

10:00 News In English

10:20 Law And Order

Heaven

A fire that kills 50 people leads to the uncovering of an operation for forging green cards.

Monday, Dec. 7

8:30 Step By Step
9:10 A Fine Romance

It's Just The Gypsy In My Soul

Louisa will not die in Budapest as Michael thinks.

10:00 News In English

10:20 The Dismissal

This compelling drama series, faithfully recreates the sequence of events which in 1975 led to the sensational dismissal of Gough Whitlam's Labour government by the Queen's representative in Australia, the Governor Sir John Kerr.

The series spans the year from November 1974 when a Pakistani commodities dealer, Tirath Hassarum Khemlani, arrived in Australia to November 1975 when Sir



(Left to right) Christopher Noth, George Dzundza, Michael Moriarty and Richard Brooks star in Law and Order Sunday at 10:20

John Kerr became the first governor general ever to dismiss an Australian prime minister from office.

It includes the so-called Morosi Affair, the controversial relationship between Treasurer Dr. Jim Cairns and his attractive personal assistant Juni Morosi and Dr. Cairns own loan enquires and subsequent dismissal. The rise of Malcolm Fraser to the leadership of the Liberal Party, the attempt by the Labour government to borrow \$4 billion to buy back Australia's huge mineral and energy wealth, the resignation of Rex Connor — the minister for minerals and energy, the nomination of Albert "Pat" Field as senator from Queensland, the blocking of the Hayden Budget and, of course, the dismissal of Australia's 21st prime minister and the swearing in of its 22nd.

Tuesday, Dec. 8

8:30 Golden Girls

Grandma's Get The Blues
 Blanche discovers that telling a lie is very, very bad.

9:10 Maigret

10:00 News In English

10:20 Feature Film

The Caretakers

Starring: Robert Stack and Polly Bergen

Wednesday, Dec. 9

8:30 Saved By The Bell

9:00 Spotlight

9:30 Chudo

The Best Insurance

10:00 News In English

10:20 The Cowra Breakout

On the Aug. 5, 1944 the prisoners launch the largest prison breakout in history.

40-year-old Mousetrap weathers mid-life crisis

By Abigail Levene
 Reuter

LONDON — It was the year that Queen Elizabeth acceded to the British throne and Eisenhower was elected U.S. president, the United States exploded its first hydrogen bomb and London ran its last tram.

And on Nov. 25, 1952, Agatha Christie's murder mystery The Mousetrap, about to celebrate its 40th anniversary in the longest continuous run of any show in the world, opened at the Ambassador Theatre in London's West End.

"While the world has seen many changes since its opening, The Mousetrap has been a constant source of enjoyment for the many thousands who have seen the play," wrote then U.S. President Ronald Reagan in a congratulatory telegram on the who-dunnit's 33rd birthday.

The tale of eight English eccentrics at the mercy of a mystery murderer in a snowed-in country house still draws the tourists in droves. One programme seller estimated that overseas visitors usually make up 70 per cent of the audience.

Since 1952, more than 9.5 million people have seen a show which has provided work for 259 actors and actresses, 118 understudies and 20 directors, says David Turner, who first saw the play as a schoolboy and has directed it four times.

But despite total cast overhauls every year since 1968,

The Mousetrap has only ever had one producer, Sir Peter Saunders.

Agatha Christie, often dubbed "the queen of crime," gave Sir Peter the script of The Mousetrap in the early 1950s with the words: "This is a little present for you."

The "little present" was an expansion of a 30-minute radio play entitled Three Blind Mice, originally written in 1947 to mark the 80th birthday of Queen Mary, Queen Elizabeth's grandmother.

Christie, the world's top-selling fiction writer who produced more than 100 crime stories, plays and even romantic novels before her death in 1976, confessed to an "invariable belief that a play would not run."

But Sir Peter "assured me that The Mousetrap would run at least a year or longer," she said later.

Neither Christie nor Sir Peter imagined that The Mousetrap would enter the Guinness Book of Records as the world's longest-running play, a status it has enjoyed since 1958.

Also listed in the record book is Britain's longest-serving actor David Raven, who appeared in The Mousetrap for 11 years.

At least 74 miles (120 km) of costumes have been ironed, more than 292 tonnes of ice cream consumed and 61,500 gallons of soft drinks downed during the play's run, Mr. Turner estimates.

It has been performed in 45



The Mousetrap, by Agatha Christie, is officially the world's longest running play. The mystery thriller opened in the winter of 1952. Seen here is a file photo of producer of the play, Sir Peter Saunders with his actress wife, Katie Boyle, posing with a cake made to celebrate the production, then in its 35th year. The Mousetrap is listed in the Guinness Book of World Records as the longest running play.

countries in 24 languages, and its takings in London alone have exceeded £20 million (\$30 million), he says.

In 1974, the production moved from the 540-seat St. Martin's Theatre next door, where it has remained ever since, its script unchanged since the first performance, although references to post-war rationing have been dropped.

Despite its longevity, the show has not always been well received: One stage director is reputed to have said: "The Mousetrap should be abolished by act of parliament."

But clearly the foreign visitors who flock to it do not agree it remains an obligatory item on a London tourist circuit, on a par with the Tower of London or Big Ben.

After the curtain call, one of the actors carries on a long-standing tradition by directly addressing the audience, who have now joined the ranks of those in the know.

"We ask that you keep the secret of whodunnit locked in your heart," he tells them.

But, as the Independent newspaper wrote recently, "the question of how the play has done it remains the real mystery."

So eager is Sir Peter to keep the secret of The Mousetrap that he has made sure no film version will ever be able to threaten the London show.

When he sold the film rights to Romulus Films in 1956, he added the proviso that the company was not to release a movie until six months after the end of the London stage run.

More U.S. teens now try LSD, other hallucinogens than cocaine

SAN FRANCISCO (R) — LSD, the hallucinogenic drug which fuelled the psychedelic 1960s, has returned to America's schools and streets in a big way.

More people between the ages of 12 and 17 have tried LSD and other hallucinogens than have tried cocaine. LSD is second only to marijuana as the drug of choice for this age group, according to federal studies.

"LSD is the fastest-growing drug of abuse among the under-20 age group," said Bob Bender, special agent in charge of the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) for San Francisco.

Of the major abusive drug categories, hallucinogens was the only one for which use rose among the 12-17 age group from 1990 to 1991, according to a study commissioned by the Department of Health and Human Services.

The best-known hallucinogen is LSD, lysergic acid diethylamide. It can cause wild mood swings, increased heart rate, and hallucinations, according to the national institute on Drug Abuse.

More than half the LSD seized by federal agents has been traced to northern California, Mr. Bender said.

"San Francisco continued to resurface time and time again more than any other state as the source of the LSD," he said.

Children as young as 12 are taking the drug, according to Bender and Dr. David Smith, director of the Haight Ashbury Free Clinics, where many addicts were treated in the 1960s.

"There's an increased use by younger people," said Dr. Smith.

While 2.4 per cent of all 12-17-year-olds in a 1991 federal survey had tried cocaine, 3.4 per cent had used hallucinogens, of which

LSD is the major one. Thirteen per cent had used the less potent drug marijuana. "The last couple of years, I've consulted on three LSD-related suicides," Dr. Smith said. "It tends to magnify the turmoil of adolescence."

Because individual doses are microscopic, LSD is usually absorbed on squares of blotter paper, which the user eats.

The federal government has responded to the surge in LSD abuse with harsh sentences for those convicted of selling it.

Levon Dumont is in the fourth year of a 15-year sen-

ence without possibility of parole at Sheridan Correctional Institute in Oregon after being convicted of conspiracy to distribute LSD.

Mr. Dumont, a 22-year-old from Santa Cruz, California, was arrested with seven pounds (three kg) of hallucinogenic mushrooms, two pounds (0.9 kg) of marijuana, and a small quantity of LSD, all of which he said had the same value of \$100,000.

The LSD alone weighed six grams (0.21 ounces), but with the blotter paper it was mounted on, it weighed 400 grams (14.1 ounces).

If the LSD was weighed

alone, Mr. Dumont would have gotten six to eight years in prison. His 15-year sentence was based on a weight which included the blotter paper, under sentencing guidelines which give judges little room for discretion.

"The sentence I got is...for this huge kingpin type of drug dealer," Mr. Dumont said. "I see people arrested with 100 kilos (220 lb) of cocaine that have the same sentence I do. That's \$2 million worth of cocaine."

U.S. District Judge J.P. Stadtmueller, who sentenced Mr. Dumont, said the harsh sentences are not deterring

drug dealing. "In terms of the availability of drugs and firearms on the street, I see nothing in the cases coming before me to suggest there is any deterrent effect...because nobody hears about (the harsh sentences)," said the federal judge based in Milwaukee, Wisconsin.

"We are just warehousing a segment of society," he said.

The Drug Enforcement Agency's Mr. Bender disagrees.

"If you are going to sell drugs and get caught, you're going to have to pay the

price," he said. Mr. Bender of Dumont's claims LSD is a victim. "LSD is just as crack," he said. "Recent California two youths under the influence of LSD grandmother."

Dr. Smith, of Asbury Clinic, a year-old who suicide while on "He got depressed, obsessive, knock door of his girlfriend's door, and he shot, blew his brains out."

Growing awareness that illnesses of the skin are more than merely skin deep

By Rainer Flöhl

THE SKIN is an organ that is quick to respond to mental stimuli. People often blush pale or perspire in response to feelings. Many figures of speech testify to the close link between the skin and the emotions. People are "thin-skinned" or "thick-skinned," things get "under your skin."

No organ, not even the heart, is used more frequently than the skin in colloquial usage. Yet despite the unmistakable significance of psychological factors, dermatologists have long neglected psychosomatics. Two Göttingen dermatologists deserve much credit for changing this. Skin diseases, and not just sick skin, are now being treated.

The two doctors are Hellmut Ippen and Klaus Bosse. Dr. Ippen, a chemist and skin specialist, was appointed to a senior post at Göttingen University Hospital in 1974. He there met Dr. Bosse, who had already spent several years studying psychosomatic dermatology, a subject that wasn't then taken seriously.

Dr. Ippen's background as a chemist and a pharmacologist had more to do with somatic treatment, but he energetically encouraged psychosomatic work at the Göttingen hospital.

He and his wife, a psychiatrist, regularly cared for foster-children and knew at first hand how important emotional factors were in cases of allergic hypersensitivity. Before moving to Göttingen, Dr. Bosse had long considered practising in a developing country. In India he came across lepers with their disfigured limbs and was surprised how their disfigurement was accepted as a matter of course in Indian society.

After deciding to stay in

Germany he aimed to find out more about disfigurement in the West, having come across psychosomatics as taught by Artur Jores in Hamburg. He began to study the somatic psyche and the effect of physical changes on the mind of patients suffering from disfiguring skin diseases such as psoriasis, acne, alopecia and birthmarks. His studies then developed in the direction of psychosomatics, the study of the effects of mental, emotional and social factors on the skin. But neither of the two specialists was anywhere near replacing the on-sided somatic approach with one that was geared more to mental and emotional factors. All they had — and still have — in mind was to pay more attention to the psychosomatic aspects of skin diseases.

Endogenous eczema is a case in point. A chronic or at least a recurring complaint, it arguably reveals the inter-relationship between the skin and the emotions more clearly than any other disease. Endogenous eczema, genetic in origin, is also known as atopic dermatitis, but it is probably best known as neurodermatitis.

It frequently occurs in connection with other complaints that are atopic or related to oversensitivity of the body, such as asthma or hay fever, whether they occur in the same patient or among other members of the family. Endogenous eczema was blamed on the central nervous system over a century ago. French specialists coined the term neurodermatitis back in 1891.

A leading psychosomatic specialist, Franz Alexander, an American of Hungarian extraction, classified endogenous eczema as one of the seven classic psychosomatic complaints. The itching that is its hallmark is a particularly

clear reflection of the mental influences that are involved. Patients scratch where it itches, causing inflammation that makes the itch worse.

Patients suffering from stress can find an itch even more unbearable, which makes them scratch and start the vicious circle. It isn't a simple reflex, it's a complex conditioning process. Situations that weigh heavily on the patient, who feels frustrated at being unable really to influence them, trigger a vague sense of tension.

The patient can then start scratching even before it itches. Dr. Bosse, who is also a veterinary surgeon, compares this behaviour with that of animals who scratch or lick themselves when they aren't sure what to do next. Eczema imposes mental burden, driving the patient into isolation and solitude. Yet that doesn't mean it is easy for the patient to realise or to accept the psychosomatic nature of the complaint.

The somatic approach, which attributes illness to water, air or an unnatural diet, quickly and conveniently absolves the patient of responsibility. The doctor must cautiously try to sensitise and motivate the patient. But he must not simply tell the patient that his complaint is strictly mental in origin. Experience in Göttingen has shown that what first matters is to sound out the patient's attitude and expectations and to gather information about his mental and social situation.

Dr. Bosse says the patient must be given time to find out for himself the link between his complaint and state of mind — even if the first consultation with the doctor has provided clear evidence of psycho-social conflict. Bosse and Ippen recommend a three-to five-week stay in hospital to sound out in full

the possibilities of psychosomatic therapy. The decision to hospitalise a patient need not depend solely on the seriousness of the skin condition.

If, during outpatient treatment, psychosomatic factors are found to be involved, the patient is given an opportunity of taking it easy during the first third of the stay in hospital. The aim is to reduce contacts with the family and normal surroundings. That alone can often lead to amazing improvements. In the second third, attempts are made to point out situations that may impose a burden and to involve the patient more closely in psychological discussions. The hospital employs a psychologist who does this part of the work. In-house psychological services have proved better than referral to a neurological or psychiatric ward.

The final third of the hospital stay serves the purpose of leading the patient out of this protective ecological niche and back into reality. Patients are sent home on short leave to see how well they can cope with the strain of life outside. Over a weekend they can see for themselves whether they are a match for the slings and arrows of outrageous fortune.

The condition of a number of patients has been found to take a turn for the worse on the eve of their weekend's leave. Phone calls or visits by certain persons are often enough to make the trouble worse. It is particularly important for the patient to appreciate the connection. It shows him that he will have to change his behaviour and his attitude if he is to avoid a recurrence of his condition.

Initially it wasn't easy to convince patients that their condition was partly the result of a state of mind, but the

Göttingen approach has made it easier. Many neurodermitis patients arrive at the Göttingen clinic with more or less fixed views on psychosomatics. And some are attracted by the psychosomatic approach.

There is clearly a heavy demand for a psychosocially oriented approach to dermatology, and spa clinics have been quick to discover this new market. They offset the overemphasis on a somatic approach in university hospital dermatological wards.

Only a minority of wards adopt an approach that is both clinical and psychological, but Ippen and Bosse both feel the situation is showing signs of improvement.

The German Dermatological Society, for instance, has set up a working party on dermatological psychosomatics in which young doctors in particular have shown interest. Göttingen medical students have also been enthusiastic in their response to psychosomatic lectures. Yet while this pioneering work is gradually gaining wider recognition and being taken up elsewhere, the future of dermatological psychosomatics in Göttingen is uncertain.

Ippen and Bosse are shortly due to retire. Professor Ippen plans to spend more time on his pharmacological and toxicological work and to put his unique specialised knowledge to literary use. Professor Bosse plans, modestly and in less of a glare of publicity, to carry on helping patients with skin complaints.

As for their clinic, one would hope that their teaching and researching tradition will be continued. But there are fears that this is the end of an era — something that, unfortunately, happens too often at Göttingen — Frankfurt Allgemeine Zeitung.

Damage to breast implants may accelerate disease

LONDON (R) — U.S. and Japanese researchers say injury to the breasts of women who have had surgical implants seems to accelerate the onset of diseases such as auto-immune disorders, to which implants have been linked.

But in a report published in the British medical journal the Lancet, the researchers said further research was needed to determine whether auto-immune diseases — which cause a person's immune system to attack itself — are more prevalent in women with breast implants.

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) limited the use of implants after claims that leaking implants led to health problems. Leading manufacturer Dow Corning left the implant business in January 1992 after the FDA decision.

Auto-immune diseases are not contagious, cancerous or related to AIDS. But they are serious, debilitating and may be life-threatening, and

include rheumatic fever, auto-immune thyroid disease, rheumatoid arthritis and multiple sclerosis.

The new study, by the Scripps Research Institute in La Jolla, California, and the Imachi Hospital in Tochigi, Japan, looked at 24 women in the United States who developed various rheumatic disorders — characterised by painful inflammation and degeneration of the joints and muscles — an average of 8-1/2 years after implantation. Of these 23 had received breast implants and one had silicon injections.

Eleven of the women were diagnosed as definitely having auto-immune disease, while the diagnosis for the other 13 was less clear.

Most of the women identified as having auto-immune disease had high levels of antibodies generally found in sufferers of one form of auto-immune disease. The researchers speculate that these antibodies may be early indicators of the disease.

They also found injury to the breast capsule in a mo accident, women symptoms of the almost three year typical period of

In some cases rupture of the capsule. This may the release of fat of silicone into the lymphatic system.

They conclude unclear whether hastens disease women who might have developed spontaneously, or induces new disease.

"The nine to 11 val from implant symptoms suggest would be important to whether the 4 of symptoms occurs more about certain time, period to implant rupture gradation of the, they said.

New study of implants shows much they impair mammograms

By Brenda C. Coleman
The Associated Press

CHICAGO — Breast implants reduce the amount of tissue visible in mammograms by up to one-half in women whose breasts have a lot of scar tissue, researchers reported.

Such women comprise 10 per cent to 20 per cent of the 1.5 million or more recipients of breast implants since the early 1960s, said lead author Dr. Neal Handel, a plastic and reconstructive surgeon.

Implants have been known to increase the difficulty of seeing breast tissue in cancer-screening X-rays, but this study is the first to determine by how much, Dr. Handel said.

It is also the first to show that implants increase tissue visibility in the 10 per cent of women with the smallest natural breasts, Dr. Handel said.

Mammograms are one of the best screening tools for breast cancer, expected to develop in one of 10 American women. Mammograms can show tiny malignancies years before they can be felt by hand, greatly increasing the likelihood of catching tumours before they spread.

Researchers compared mammograms on 68 women before and after they had breast implants at the private clinic where Dr. Handel practices in Van Nuys, California. Findings were presented at a conference Tuesday in Marina Del Rey, California and published in the latest issue of the Journal of the American Medical Association.

The greatest factor in reducing visibility was the amount of scar tissue around the implants, researchers said. Women with little scar tissue had about a 30 per cent reduction in visibility. That rose to about 50 per cent in women with moderate to severe scarring, the study

found.

"They should consider doing something about it — removing the implants or getting a correction," Dr. Handel said Monday by telephone.

A method called the Eklund technique, designed to improve mammograms in women with implants, increased the visibility of breast

tissue only about

the study said. Dr. Peter Joki of breast imaging Presbyterian-St. Medical Center in said the study is because mammography partially compresses tissue, casting shadows of the tissue

Clinical tests for new AIDS vaccine

AN AIDS vaccine developed by Hanover, Germany scientists has come through its first tests on humans with promising results. The vaccine is now to be given clinical tests in a project involving 100 patients. AIDS clinics in Hamburg, Munich, Frankfurt, Berlin and Cologne are to participate in the trial.

In a related development, researchers at Göttingen have made harmless a monkey virus called SIV by breaking it down into its constituent parts. SIV is closely related to the HIV virus. Tests are soon to begin by injecting humans with these constituent parts in the hope that they will stimulate the development of antibodies against AIDS.

The Hanover serum was developed by scientists at the medical university in the city (MHH). Professor Ingolf Schedel, head of the research group, says the new serum has put Hanover out at the

head of the field in the international race to develop a way of treating AIDS.

The vaccine, unlike others developed so far, does not consist of killed AIDS viruses or parts of the pathogen. It consists of antibodies produced through genetic engineering. It has been tested on 12 HIV-infected persons. The initial results have fulfilled the hopes of the MHH researchers and caused a stir in the American press.

Tests show that the substance increases the number so-called T-cells special types of defensive cells which are heavily decimated in the case of AIDS sufferers. The serum would appear to put the body's collapsed immuno-system back on its feet — without serious side effects.

One effect is measurable: in the case of eight patients, the number of T-cells increased by 30 per cent after six weeks of treatment, and

by 50 per cent in the case of three patients. Only one patient, whose disease had already reached a very advanced stage, failed to respond.

"We were also able to observe that the proliferation of AIDS viruses in the blood of the patients was drastically retarded through treatment," Schedel explains. The only side effects were local reddening and swelling around the injection points, "just like other injections." Similar to a rabies injection, the serum against the HIV virus also shows an effect when the patient has already been infected.

A clinical study of 100 patients will now examine how effective the serum really is. The study, which will be financed by the Federal Health Office and by industry, will involve hospitals from all over Germany.

The Hanover researchers are now trying to improve the vaccine. It is not as long-

lasting as was hoped. A few months after discontinuation of treatment, the number of T-cells in the blood again decreases, Schedel says. New injections are then necessary to strengthen the body's defences. "We now want to find out why the number of T-cells declines and how they can be kept at a constant level."

Ulrich Marcus, of the AIDS centre of the Federal Health Office, confirms that the Hanover researchers are the first in the world to have tested an AIDS serum on the basis of antibodies. However, he warns against excessive hopes: "There is no serum with this action principle for any disease." Correspondingly, there were no comparative possibilities.

Neither was it clear whether the substance could provide protection against infection. Up to now, it had only revealed an effect among infected persons. Its value would have to be con-

WEEKEND CROSSWORD NOT RECEIVED

MIDDLE EAST NEWS IN BRIEF

Container full of weapons found in Kuwait

KUWAIT (R) — Kuwaiti police found a container full of machineguns, grenades, mortars, automatic rifles, grenade launchers, ammunition and at least one anti-aircraft gun in Salibia, 15 kilometres west of Kuwait City. More arms and explosives were hidden underground in a sheep pen in Salibia and others in a pickup truck and in two houses elsewhere in the city, the Interior Ministry said Wednesday. The caches belonged to two Kuwaitis, it added. Photographs distributed by the ministry showed that most of the weapons were of Soviet design. A ministry statement did not say whether they had been arrested. Many Kuwaitis have held on to weapons abandoned by Iraqi forces when they withdrew from Kuwait in February 1990, despite repeated requests to hand them in to the authorities.

No extradition for convicted Tunisian

TUNIS (R) — The brother of Tunisia's president, sentenced in his absence by a French court to 10 years in prison on drug-related charges, will not be extradited and will not oppose the verdict, his lawyer said Tuesday. Habib "Moncef" Ben Ali and 24 other defendants at the trial of the so-called "Couscous Connection" drug network, most of them Tunisians, were given jail terms ranging from one to 15 years Monday. "Moncef's" lawyer Jean-Yves Leborgne said there was no evidence to back drug charges against his client and the affair had been mounted by Muslim fundamentalists opposed to president Zine Al Abidine Ben Ali. He said opposing the verdict would be submitting to a foreign power. As a fugitive, "Moncef" cannot appeal against the sentence but could oppose it if he surrenders to French justice within 10 days.

'Condomat' in Israeli parliament causes stir

TEL AVIV (R) — A condom dispenser was put on display in the Israeli parliament on World AIDS Day Tuesday, angering some religious legislators. The "condomat" was placed temporarily in the education committee room on the orders of Chairman Avraham Burg, an Orthodox Jew, so that lawmakers could acquaint themselves with the machine soon to be installed in high schools. Ultra-Orthodox Rabi Moshe Bagad of the far-right Molechet party walked out of the room in protest. Hanan Porat of the National Religious Party complained the demonstration was vulgar and immoral. In a radio information campaign on Tuesday, Israeli health officials advocated condom use as the best way to prevent the spread of AIDS.

Sudan turns criminals into mujahedeen

KHARTOUM (R) — Sudan's head of state Lieutenant General Omar Hassan Al Bashir has pardoned 200 prisoners transformed by military training into mujahedeen (holy fighters), newspapers said Wednesday. The commander of prisons forces, Major General Al Sheikh Al Rayah, said the former criminals were ready to be sent into combat after two months training at a camp of the Popular Defence Force. The force was formed three years ago to help the army fight a long and bloody civil war against the rebel Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA) in the south.

Assad pardons 554 political prisoners

DAMASCUS (AP) — President Hafez Al Assad has ordered the release of 554 political prisoners in an amnesty marking the 22nd anniversary of a coup that brought him to power. The Syrian Arab News Agency said Tuesday the presidential decree covered some of "those who had committed acts and engaged in activities against the security of the state." The agency did not say when the release would take place, nor did it provide a list of the pardoned prisoners. It was the third amnesty decreed by Mr. Assad in one year. On the same occasion last year, he ordered the release of 3,500 prisoners, many of them held for political reasons. In April, several hundred were freed in another amnesty. Syria's human rights record has often been criticised by international organisations. But in the past two years, there have been a marked improvement on this issue, especially as Damascus moved closer to the West after the collapse of its longtime backer the Soviet Union.

Islamic organisation admits 3 new members

JEDDAH (R) — The Organisation of the Islamic Conference (OIC) has admitted three new members, to bring its total to 50, officials said on Wednesday. They said OIC foreign ministers, meeting in emergency session Tuesday to discuss the plight of Bosnia's Muslims, approved applications from Albania, Kyrgyzstan and Zanzibar. The Jeddah-based OIC had so far included 46 states and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO).

Afghanistan prepares for nationwide council

KABUL (R) — A council of nationwide delegates to elect a new Afghan president should take place on time although the number of representatives is unknown and two organising teams have disappeared, an official said on Wednesday. "The election process has been proceeding peacefully and will be completed within the next six days," said Syed Noorullah Emad, leader of the preparatory commission for the council. Teams fanned out across all 47 provinces of Afghanistan in the middle of last month to organise the election, which is due to begin on Dec. 12, he said. "We have officially received the results of local elections from three provinces, Paktia, Paktika and Helmand in the south and southeast," Mr. Emad said.

Palestinians reject interim jurisdiction proposal

The Jerusalem Post

ISRAEL has offered Palestinians the administration or partial administration of 92 per cent of the territories, but the Palestinians are demanding sole administration of all the land, an Israeli official and Dr. Zakaria Al Agha, a senior Palestinian delegate to the talks, confirmed Monday.

Under the Israeli proposal, 62 per cent of the territory would be administered solely by Palestinians, 30 per cent which is virtually unpopulated would be administered jointly by Palestinians and Israelis, while eight per cent — including all settlements — would be administered by Israel alone, Agha told The Jerusalem Post. Eastern Jerusalem is not included in the calculations.

The allocation of interim jurisdiction over the land does not dictate the final disposition of the territories when the five-year interim period ends. The powers that would be included in administration, including the administration of natural resources, have yet to be defined.

Agha said the Palestinians rejected the proposal because "we cannot accept a solution during the interim stage which does not recognise Palestinian control over all the territories."

He pointed out that to accept

Israeli jurisdiction over the settlements would amount to Palestinian recognition that the settlements are legal and can be annexed later.

"The Israelis must acknowledge that Palestinian jurisdiction is over all the occupied territories, then the question of settlers can be discussed," he said. The discussion of Israel's role in the territories should be limited to the issue of maintaining security for Israelis who live there and external security, he added.

Israeli delegates say they offered the proposal in talks last month in Washington, during two sets of informal working groups dealing with concepts and their application. Agha, Saeb Erakat and Ghassan Khatib were members of the concepts group of three Palestinians and three Israelis headed by chief delegate Elyakim Rubinstein.

The proposal itself appears to confirm Israeli official estimates that 61 per cent of the land in the territories is owned by Arabs, eight per cent by Israelis and the rest is state land or land that has been unclaimed. The proportion of land confiscated by Israel had been put as high as 60-70 per cent by many Palestinians quoting studies on the subject.

Agha acknowledged that the Israeli proposal "is somewhat different from that of the pre-

vious Shamir government. But we expected the starting point with Labour would be different.

Under the Likud government, Palestinians were offered only personal autonomy, but an Israeli official in the prime minister's office said this week that under Labour, it was understood that land and people cannot be treated separately.

Agha rejected the quality of self-administration being offered by Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin. "It is nonsense if Israeli soldiers can still come in and impose curfews (and) arrest people."

He said Jerusalem must be included as part of the administered lands and administration must be by a legislative council. The right to issue by-laws, broached by Israel, would be insufficient, but he added, "We can agree to limitations on legislative power, like passing a law

to establish a state."

Last month, Foreign Minister Shimon Peres told the Knesset foreign affairs and defence committee Israel would be willing to share undeveloped "state" land. Israel's credo, he said, should be "What is mine is mine, what is yours is yours, and what is ours is ours."

The Palestinian rejection of the proposals would appear to be behind Rabin's charge on Sunday that Palestinians had learned nothing in the past 45 years.

Some 40 foreign ministers are attending the conference, expected to end later Wednesday. Hamid Al Ghabid, secretary-general of the 50-member OIC, the political umbrella for the world's estimated one billion Muslims, had said the conference would push for U.N.-sponsored military intervention to enforce a ceasefire.

West resists Muslim demand on Bosnia

(Continued from page 1)

later returned to the closed-door session.

Mr. Vance and Mr. Owen left Jeddah Wednesday before the closing session of the two-day conference. It was not clear if that was their plan all along or they advanced their departure after the stormy session.

Sol Linowitz, a former U.S. negotiator on Palestinian self-rule a decade ago, viewed joint administration of land as assuring a veto on future land development, which would imply a Palestinian right to veto any new Israeli settlements on 92 per cent of the land.

Likud MK Uzi Landau said that if true, these proposals show "Rabin is deviating from the autonomy agreed on at Camp David, and from what he promised voters before the elections."

Some 40 foreign ministers are attending the conference, expected to end later Wednesday. Hamid Al Ghabid, secretary-general of the 50-member OIC, the political umbrella for the world's estimated one billion Muslims, had said the conference would push for U.N.-sponsored military intervention to enforce a ceasefire.

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WORLD NEWS IN BRIEF

Police prevent huge London bomb blast

LONDON (R) — Police prevented devastation in central London by defusing an IRA bomb but security chiefs fear more attempted attacks on the capital will follow as part of a pre-Christmas bombing blitz. The Irish Republican Army (IRA), fighting to oust Britain from Northern Ireland, telephoned two coded messages on Tuesday night giving a 30-minute warning four bombs were about to tear through London's West End. The area was evacuated and a van was found packed with a substantial quantity of home-made explosives, but controlled explosions made the bomb safe. The IRA often warn there are more bombs than there actually are to confuse the bomb squad. "It was obviously fortunate that the explosives in this vehicle were not detonated," said Chief Superintendent Paul Green. "The inevitable consequence ... would have been injury and death."

NATO to control French-German corps

PARIS (AP) — Conceding NATO's supremacy in defending Europe, France and Germany will place their joint army corps under NATO command when an outside power attacks the alliance and in some peacekeeping situations. French diplomats report that an accord has been reached on the relations that the joint corps — which could number up to 40,000 men and is to become operational in 1995 — will have with the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO). The accord also outlines the ties that the corps will have to the Western European Union, the 10 nation group of European countries that is to form the defence arm of the European Community.

Pretoria backing rebels in Angola

HARARE (R) — South African security forces are backing Angola's former UNITA rebels and have urged them to seize power before U.S. President-Elect Bill Clinton takes office, a Zimbabwe newspaper said on Wednesday. The semi-official Herald said Angola's government had discovered and foiled a plot aimed at seizing the capital Luanda after UNITA was defeated in the country's general election in September. The oil-rich southern African country has since been plunged into turmoil, with Jonas Savimbi's National Union for the Total Independence of Angola (UNITA) fighters taking control of several key cities in the provinces. The newspaper, quoting Western intelligence officials, said South African military overflights across Zimbabwe, Botswana, and Namibia last month had carried military supplies, including tanks, for UNITA.

S. Africa, ANC begin 'bush meeting'

JOHANNESBURG (R) — The South African government and the ANC began a secret three-day "bush meeting" Wednesday to try to salvage democracy talks, a spokesman for the ANC said. The official of Nelson Mandela's African National Congress (ANC) said there would be no word on progress in the talks, being held at a secret woodland venue east of Pretoria, until Friday. The talks began as the white-minority government announced it was suspending negotiations with the radical Pan-Africanist Congress (PAC) after the group's armed wing killed four whites last weekend. Law and Order Minister Hennis Kriel said in a statement the PAC had to clarify its position about the activities of its armed wing, the Azanian People's Liberation Army (APLA), before talks could resume. The APLA claimed responsibility for killing four whites at a wine-tasting party in the Eastern Cape Saturday and said it had killed two policemen on Tuesday night.

Rioting mars French farmers rally

STRASBOURG, France (AP) — Farmers from France, Germany, Italy and even from South Korea marched by the tens of thousands to oppose a U.S.-European accord to cut farm subsidies. Violence marred the mostly peaceful protests. The farmers Tuesday set fire to piles of wooden slats and bales of hay, topped with effigies of European Community (EC) negotiator Ray MacSharry of Ireland and U.S. trade negotiator Carla Hills. The U.S.-EC accord is part of a global trade pact still being negotiated under the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT). France threatens to torpedo the pact when it comes before the EC unless its farmers are protected. Farmers in France, the world's second largest agricultural exporter after the United States, see the agreement as a threat to their livelihoods. Within the 12 nation EC, France stands almost alone in its opposition to the accord. If France blocks EC acceptance of the GATT trade agreement, the accord would be scuttled.

Greek government resigns

ATHENS (R) — Greek Prime Minister Constantine Mitsotakis asked his entire conservative government to resign Wednesday ahead on a full-scale reshuffle to be announced over the next 24 hours. Athens Radio stations said. The decision for a complete reshuffle came during a cabinet meeting Tuesday, people leaving the session told reporters. The private radio and television stations Antenna and Flash FM said ministers leaving the session quoted Mr. Mitsotakis as demanding all their resignations and saying he would announce a new government at noon Thursday. Mr. Mitsotakis, who has a one-seat majority in the 300-seat parliament, has faced mounting criticism from his New Democracy Party deputies over his handling of the economy and foreign policy.

Russian arms sales to Asia worth \$2b

MOSCOW (R) — Russia has signed recent arms sales deals worth more than \$2 billion with China, India and Iran, Acting Prime Minister Yegor Gaidar said Wednesday. In a speech to the Congress of People's Deputies Mr. Gaidar said Russia would continue to export weapons but pledged to avoid conflict zones. "We are not going to stoke conflicts by supplying arms to hot spots, but there are no reasons to abandon this important market," he told the session of Russia's supreme legislature. He said Russia had contracts worth \$1 billion with China, \$650 million with India and \$600 million with Iran. Mr. Gaidar gave no time-frame for these deals but said they had been signed "so far."

Shuttle Discovery lifts off

CAPE CANAVERAL, Fla. (AP) — Space shuttle Discovery blasted off with five astronauts Wednesday on a semi-secret military mission after cold weather delayed the morning takeoff. Discovery rose from its seaside pad at 6:24 a.m. on a column of flame, nearly 1 1/2 hours late because of ice accumulation on the external liquid-fuel tank, a result of uncommonly cold weather. The 100-tonne shuttle, carrying a spy satellite for the Pentagon, arched over the Atlantic Ocean and headed toward the north, skirting the east coast on its way to space. Discovery's two solid rocket boosters dropped off as planned two minutes into the flight, and the shuttle pushed toward orbit on the thrust of three liquid-fuelled engines.

Burma builds new navy base

RANGOON (R) — Burma is building a new naval base in the Irrawaddy Delta and upgrading other facilities at both ends of its coast, developments that have worried India because of possible Chinese involvement, diplomats said. China has already become a major arms supplier to the Rangoon military government as it embarks on an expansion of its armed forces. A new naval base is being constructed at Hanggy Island at the mouth of the Bassein River, diplomats said. It is also believed that existing facilities at Sitwe, near the Bangladesh border, and Mergui on the southern isthmus near the Thai border, are being improved. A base on Great Coco Island, just north of India's Andaman Islands, is also being upgraded, diplomats believe. "No one is really sure what they are doing," said an Asian diplomat. "India is worried and ASEAN should be worried too," he added. ASEAN, the Association of South East Asian Nations, groups Thailand, the Philippines, Singapore, Malaysia, Indonesia and Brunei.

Gaidar tells foes: No room for manoeuvre

MOSCOW (R) — Acting Prime Minister Yegor Gaidar told Russia's supreme legislature Wednesday the country was close to hyperinflation and could not risk changes in its economic policy.

Mr. Gaidar, intermittently jeered by conservative opponents, said Russia had survived a difficult first year of reform.

"There was talk of cold and hunger and a breakup of the country. But none of this happened. We have gone through this period of adjustment with no social upheavals," Mr. Gaidar said.

In an uncompromising speech, he said the government had no choice but to stand by the tight financial policy that his foes charge is destroying Russian industry.

"Our room for manoeuvre is limited by our hard currency situation, our lack of reserves and by extremely dangerous inflation," Mr. Gaidar said.

"Prices are rising by 25 per cent a month. Technically we are very close to the threshold of hyperinflation of 50 per cent."

Mr. Gaidar was fighting for his political future at the legislature, the Congress of People's Deputies.

Hardline opponents aim to remove him completely from power while conservatives hope at least to install as prime minister a more cautious reformer, leaving Mr. Gaidar in a ministerial post.

President Boris Yeltsin, clearly courting support from the centre-right industrial lobby, said Tuesday he would release extra funds to protect industry in the transition to a market economy.

But Mr. Gaidar seemed to offer less prospect of relief to industrial managers whose factories are starved of raw materials and whose production lines lack orders.

The industrial lobby, represented by the Civic Union Coalition, accused Mr. Gaidar of blindly following a policy of tight finances and credits, paying no attention to the hardship and disruption it was causing. They demand more credits and a limited return to the system of state-controlled distribution.

Conservative deputies erupted in jeers several times as Mr. Gaidar outlined his successes and failures. He said the amount of time lost to strikes had fallen to a sixth in the first 10 months of this year, compared with the same period of 1991.

But Mr. Gaidar said the sell-off of state enterprises, something Mr. Yeltsin knows must be carried out quickly to achieve his goal of making reforms "irreversible," was falling behind schedule.

Yosif Diskin, a Civic Union official who led pre-congress compromise talks with the government, drew a clear distinction between Mr. Yeltsin said Mr. Gaidar, suggesting the acting premier could come under heavy fire later in the congress.

"There were serious conceptual differences between the economic visions of Mr. Gaidar and

Mr. Yeltsin. The president made it clear he had accepted the main positions of Civic Union," Mr. Diskin told a news conference.

The 1,000-odd deputies of the congress, which meets twice a year, were scheduled to debate the speeches of Mr. Yeltsin and Mr. Gaidar and pass a resolution on the progress of reform.

If the resolution broadly approves the government's progress, Mr. Yeltsin will be strongly placed to keep Mr. Gaidar as full prime minister, endorsed by congress.

It broadly condemns Mr. Gaidar, Mr. Yeltsin could be forced to nominate an alternative premier — possibly a candidate of the Civic Union.

Mr. Gaidar might then stay in the cabinet as economics chief. But Mr. Yeltsin could choose the bolder course of proposing himself as prime minister, a post he held for several months until he appointed Mr. Gaidar acting premier. His personal authority, though battered by the hardships of the past year, might be enough then to save the course of reform.

Mr. Yeltsin also faces a battle to save special powers that expired Tuesday, allowing him to cut through parliamentary resistance and bureaucracy to press reform policies.

The president proposed a power-sharing deal Tuesday, transferring legislative powers to the smaller standing parliament and bolstering the government's authority.

It was unclear Wednesday if

the proposal would be accepted, but conservatives have already denounced the plan.

The conservative parliamentary Chairman Ruslan Khasbulatov Tuesday attacked Mr. Gaidar, whose government he once described as "boys who have lost their way."

He said home building had slumped and unemployment threatened untold poverty.

Mr. Gaidar indirectly accused Mr. Khasbulatov of distorting the economic picture.

"The situation is difficult and dramatic. I would say it is critical. The seriousness is so great, I fail to see why the aides of the respected chairman needed to resort to figures which are not

correct," he said.

Mr. Yeltsin's defence adviser, Gen. Dmitri Volkogonov, told the Interfax News Agency that Mr. Gaidar lacks the votes to remain in office. He said Mr. Yeltsin has an alternative candidate for prime minister whose name has not been made public.

Outside the Kremlin's walls Wednesday, about 200 Cossacks in traditional garb demonstrated in support of Mr. Yeltsin. Nearby, scores of robed Russian Muslims danced and chanted in support of the president.

Dozens of metres away, about 200 pro-Communist supporters rallied against Mr. Yeltsin. Police and barricades kept the groups apart.



Acting Russian Prime Minister Yegor Gaidar addresses the Russian parliament on his economic reform plan (AFP photo)

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Khmer Rouge hold 6 U.N. soldiers

PHNOM PENH (R) — Six U.N. peacekeeping soldiers in Cambodia have been taken prisoner by Khmer Rouge guerrillas and a French officer in a helicopter on a related reconnaissance mission was shot and wounded, a U.N. spokesman said Wednesday.

Negotiations to secure the release of the six — three Britons, two Filipinos and one New Zealander — have been unsuccessful so far, spokesman Eric Falt said.

Khmer Rouge fighters seized the military observers in Kompong Thom province at midday Tuesday. A local commander of the Maoist guerrillas accused them of spying for the Phnom Penh government.

A French officer was shot in the lower back on Wednesday while flying in a U.N. helicopter to Kompong Thom on a reconnaissance mission linked to efforts to secure their release, Mr. Falt said.

He said the helicopter was hit by several bullets from the ground. The officer, whom he did not name, was flown to a U.N. hospital in Phnom Penh where he was in good condition.

In separate incidents Wednesday morning, two Tunisian and three Indonesian policemen were wounded when their vehicles hit anti-tank mines in northwestern Siem Reap province adjoining Kompong Thom, Falt said.

One of the Tunisians and one of the Indonesians might need to have limbs amputated, he added.

The six prisoners were being well treated and were in regular contact with UNTAC military headquarters in Phnom Penh, Mr. Falt said.

They were a British army lieutenant-colonel and captain, a British Royal Navy lieutenant, a naval chief petty officer and a petty officer from the Philippines and a New Zealand Navy petty officer.

UNTAC (United Nations Transitional Authority in Cambodia) military information officer Lieutenant-Colonel Dick Falk said negotiations with Khmer Rouge military officials had not succeeded so far and discussions were being pursued with political representatives of the group.

"We're confident that they will be released but we are concerned that it has taken this period of time," he said. "We are impressed by the (Khmer Rouge) seriousness of the situation, which we treat as grave."

He said the Khmer Rouge office in Phnom Penh had not yet agreed to an UNTAC request to provide an official to fly to Kompong Thom to help secure the prisoners' release.

Their seizure was the first of its kind since U.N. peacekeeping forces were deployed in March. On Monday the U.N. Security Council announced trade sanctions against the Khmer Rouge for refusing to implement the peace agreement it signed last year.

Khmer Rouge representatives at the guerrilla group's headquarters in Pailin said earlier the officer who took the prisoners must have been acting independently as there was no policy of confronting U.N. personnel, Mr. Falk said.

Serbs pound Sarajevo centre

SARAJEVO (R) — Serb artillery hammered the centre of Sarajevo and some outer districts during the night, bombarding Bosnian government positions near parliament, police said Wednesday.

In northern Bosnia, Serb and Croat forces continued to battle for control of a northern corridor vital to both as a link between areas they control.

Police said the Bosnian capital's outer districts of Otes and Stup were shelled throughout the night, and heavy machinegun fire was reported in the inner Hrasno and old town suburbs.

Bosnian radio reported heavy fighting in the northern towns of Gradacac, Brcko and Tesanj, and said an attempt to take a Bosnian-controlled road between Doboj and Teslic had been beaten back.

A convoy of aid for the besieged east Bosnian town of Gorazde set out from Sarajevo under heavy escort.

But in another besieged town, Srebrenica, which received its first outside help in seven months last week, heavy shelling was reported.

In Belgrade, moderate Prime Minister Milan Panic received a strong boost in his bid to topple

hardline nationalist Slobodan Milosevic from the Serbian leadership when the major opposition parties said Tuesday they would back him.

Mr. Milosevic, Serbia's president since 1989, is widely seen abroad as the man to blame for the break-up of Yugoslavia and the bloodshed that has ravaged Croatia and Bosnia.

Mr. Panic's announcement Tuesday of his candidacy for the Dec. 20 poll came as the international community stepped up pressure on the Serbs, blaming them for atrocities in Bosnia.

Vuk Draskovic, leader of the biggest opposition party, the Serbian Renewal Movement, said he and the opposition alliance Depos would withdraw from the race and throw their support behind Mr. Panic.

The influential opposition Democratic Party followed suit, backing Mr. Panic who already leads Mr. Milosevic by a wide margin in polls.

"I'll change our future," said 62-year-old Panic, promising to stop the war and end Serbia's international isolation if he becomes president.

Western diplomats said the elections could determine the future of Serbia for years to come.

8 Germans arrested after hostel attack

BONN (R) — Police arrested eight youths after a hostel for mainly African refugees was stormed Tuesday night in the eastern German city of Magdeburg.

A police spokesman said Wednesday the eight Germans aged between 16 and 22 were detained after hostel residents called for help as stones were hurled through their windows.

Police said some ten people had taken part in the attack, the latest assault on foreigners in months of riotous violence in Germany that has left 17 people dead and caused widespread international outrage.

The British government Tuesday condemned what it called a "bigoted snarling minority" of German rightwing extremists for attacks on foreigners and expressed confidence Germany's liberal majority would prevail.

Foreign Secretary Douglas Hurd, in a speech to the Israel Disapora Trust which helps Jews resettle in Israel, said the German government recognised the nature and scale of the problem and was taking firm action to stem the rising tide of violence.

Mr. Hurd, speaking before a visit to Britain by Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin next week, said he did not believe Germany was about to be "taken over by anti-Semitic, neo-Nazi."

"When we think of Germany, we should think of the large law-abiding majority, not the bigoted, snarling minority," he said. "I am confident in a modern and liberal Germany."

Mr. Hurd's comments came after the Israeli government protested about the latest racist outrages in Germany.

Meanwhile U.S. Congressman

Joseph Kennedy said Tuesday he was concerned that Bonn was not taking a rise in racist violence seriously.

"I got a general sense that there was not a recognition of the problem," he told reporters after a meeting with Bernd Schmidbauer, minister of state at the German chancellery.

Mr. Kennedy, who is in Germany on a fact-finding mission, added that it was time Bonn came up with an aggressive plan to educate young people to learn tolerance and combat the impression that the problem "did not exist."

Mr. Kennedy, eldest son of Assassinated Senator Robert Kennedy, said he was here to offer Germany and its people solidarity in their fight against resurgent neo-Nazis.

'Pakistan has 7 nuclear weapons'

WASHINGTON (R) — Pakistan has at least seven nuclear weapons that can be assembled and dropped within a matter of hours, NBC News reported.

Senator Larry Pressler told NBC that the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) had described the Pakistani nuclear programme to him.

"They'd have the capability within a matter of hours to have a bomb in an airplane and flying someplace and dropping it," Sen. Pressler said.

NBC said Pakistan was able to buy sophisticated nuclear technology in the United States and Europe with the approval of the Reagan administration.

"My sense is that they were having a field day getting whatever they wanted in Western Europe and the United States," Steve Bryen, a former deputy undersecretary of defence for technology security, told NBC.

"And clearly there was very little to block them."

Senator John Glenn, who went on a congressional trip to Pakistan, told NBC, "they lied to us when we were there. They said they were not making nuclear weapons. They were. We now know that."

Pakistan said Wednesday it had a nuclear capability and declined to promise it would only be used for peaceful purposes unless its arch-enemy India gave similar assurances.

Foreign Ministry spokesman Javed Hussain declined to give any details of the capability.

"Pakistan has been pursuing a programme for developing nuclear technology for peaceful purposes. In the evolution of this programme Pakistan has acquired some technical capabilities," Mr. Hussain said.

Pakistan Defence Minister Ghous Ali Shah said earlier this year the country had been compelled to go nuclear because of India's security crackdown in disputed Kashmir.

Countries across the globe mark World AIDS Day

LONDON (AP) — Countries across the globe marked World AIDS Day, which predicted that 2 million people in Asia could die of AIDS by the year 2000. Experts say illiteracy, lack of proper health care and tainted blood banks are the main causes for the spread of AIDS in India.

In Rio De Janeiro, AIDS groups protested outside the city hall for more funds for AIDS sufferers. A local theatre screened *Venus Of Fire*, a film featuring TV star Giovanna Gold as a prostitute which aims to promote the use of condoms.

In Paris, the group Act Up dedicated to fighting AIDS staged a march in the eastern part of the city which brought out 8,000 people. They carried banners reading "AIDS: General Saharun Africa in the 1990s."

Nearby Senegal staged a series of AIDS conferences and exhibitions.

In Bombay, screen stars marched on the eve of World AIDS Day exhorting people to "have fun, but don't forget Nirobh (a popular condom brand name)."

The WHO, which sponsors World AIDS Day, has predicted that 2 million people in Asia could die of AIDS by the year 2000. Experts say illiteracy, lack of proper health care and tainted blood banks are the main causes for the spread of AIDS in India.

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ball hero, Sadaharu Oh, and other celebrities handed out AIDS information packets.

In Peking, WHO official Bernard Kean told a gathering at the Great Hall of the People that the Chinese government must do more to educate people about AIDS. He said China's incidence of AIDS is probably much higher than the 932 cases reported.

"There is a rapidly expanding portion of the population that is mobile and affluent...who patronise prostitutes or use drugs," Mr. Kean said.

Iran's deputy health minister, Dr. Saeed Namaki, announced "a special team of health workers" trained to identify the disease and care for sufferers at provincial centres.

David Kessler, U.S. Food and Drug Administration chief, warned his compatriots against complacency.

"We seem to be learning to live with AIDS as others are dying from it," he said, accepting an award from the American Foundation for AIDS Research.

Some activities showed a light-

er touch.

The Moscow Satire Theatre hosted a charity event which included a free performance. Medical experts provided free consultations and information about AIDS.

In Copenhagen, about 30 demonstrators dressed as Santas and danced around a 3-metre (9-foot) condom in the Town Hall Square.

In Britain, demonstrators placed a 17 foot (5.1 metre) condom next to Nelson's column at Trafalgar Square to emphasise that using condoms is the most effective way of stemming the AIDS epidemic in Africa and Asia.

A condom dispenser was installed for the day at Israel's parliament building.

In some countries, interest was slight.

A rally in Warsaw drew only 60 people, most of them journalists. "Such a low turnout shows the little awareness of the AIDS problem in Polish society," said organiser Marek Kotanski.

Column

Depression in 20th century

CHICAGO (R) — The 20th century, with each generation a century, across social, economic, and political lines, according to the findings of a study published in this week of the American Medical Association. "A national study of the assessment and treatment of depression has been initiated in the United States. Our findings are similar to those of other parts of the world," the report said.

Woman sells collection to maintain dogs

ROME (R) — A woman's grandfather's collection to go to the dog when she decided to sell a precious vintage to her friends. Later this month Martino will auction but as yet unvalued, or wines — including a 19 Ricassoli — to maintain she has adopted over but cannot afford to dogs all live at she around the city and in her own home on a "I like to give them home," Ms. Martino.

Dutch museum buys Rembrandt at a price

AMSTERDAM (R) — Dutch Rijksmuseum bought a historic portrait of Dutch master Rembrandt's American collector, just months had bought it at one million. The museum houses one of the largest collections of Rembrandt's